

The Europa Centre

In the past week 60 students from years 7, 8, and 9 have visited the Europa Centre in Havering. The centre offers an immersive language learning experience in which students complete a number of activities in a mock town. From the minute the students enter “the town” they can only converse in the target language (French or Spanish) and each group works with a native speaker. What was interesting on both the trips was that the native speakers were not just from Spain and France, but from a range of African and South American countries.

Although the students found the experience of having to speak and receive instructions in another language very demanding, they all rose to the challenge commendably. Some students have only been studying their respective language since September but they soon found they could understand a great deal of what they heard and made a real effort to respond in the target language. A particular highlight of the trip involved some year 7 boys using the mock-up clothes shop as an opportunity to try their hand at some cross-dressing, which caused a lot of amusement!



On both trips the assistants praised the excellent behaviour and ‘have-a-go’ attitude of the Westbourne Academy students, who made the most of this excellent opportunity to put what they had been learning into practice.

Patrick Eccles-Williams, MFL Teacher

