

Communication Skills Workshop

Black Forrest 2011

A report by Chris Spital (Teacher)

Class:	WG E1
Teachers:	Herr Spital, Frau Roik
Guests:	Nick Kelman, Stephen Combe, Owen Edwards (Students of Nottingham University) and the former deputy headmaster of Bishop Stopford's School in Enfield
Period:	July 4th – 7th 04.07.'11 – 07.07.'11

Last Year (2010) one of our former exchange students - Stephen Combe - of our partner school in Enfield (North-London) came for an internship to our school to practise communication patterns with our Sixth Form (Oberstufe).

His work together with English teachers of our school was so successful that Herr Spital, English teacher of class E 1, decided to enlarge this project this year (2011) and to invite other native speakers (students) as well.

The new Abitur in 2013 requires more communication skills and our lessons have to adapt to the new curriculum, i.e. practising dialogues and conversation with native speakers which count more in the framework of credits than the years before.

To approach these achievements our class E 1 decided to start a "joint venture" with three students (native speakers) in a secluded chalet in the Black Forest (near Baden-Baden) for four days at the beginning of July together with their teachers Frau Roik and Herr Spital. In addition they had an experienced English teacher (former deputy headmaster of Bishop Stopford's School / Enfield) with them.

During this stay English obviously was the pre-dominant language within the group and a natural "native speaker environment" was created. Even students of this class who had never dared open their mouth within an English lesson, happily talked to our English guests and communicated on this peer group level.

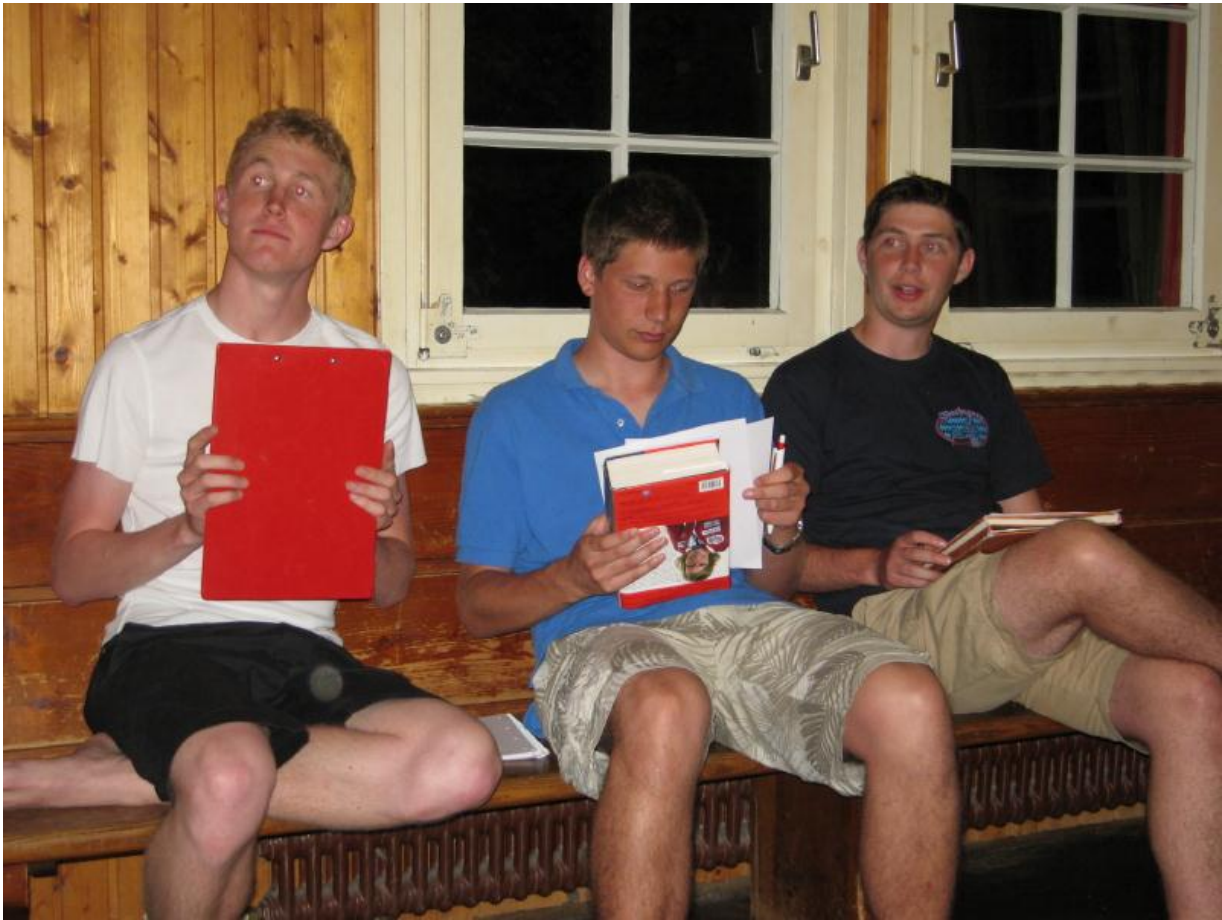
The task in several carefully planned linguistic exercises was that they had to present themselves, their partners and their room mates to the whole group. Furthermore communication pattern were realized in hikes and casual conversions during games and matches in which the rules and regulations were only accepted in the English language.

At the end of our stay the English staff delivered an assessment and judgment concerning the progress in vocabulary and idioms which were acquired during our project. We had very good results and the feedback was superb!

All in all, the project with these students promoted the motivation to speak in a foreign language and strengthened the confidence of the students in applying idioms and a wide range of RP – English.

A remarkable four days and an educational highlight! An encouragement to other classes to follow this fine example of bi-national communication and thus a splendid preparation for our future English Abitur!





English Students (Nick Kelman, Stephen Combe, Owen Edwards)