

Islington Somali Education Day

Around a hundred members of Islington's Somali community turned up at the Barnsbury Centre on 6th February to attend an event organised by the Islington Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS).

Somali Education Day turned out to be a very successful occasion when parents took advantage of the many opportunities (and the crèche) to find out more about education and training provision in Islington.

Throughout a very lively morning a wide range of education specialists and training providers were available to offer advice and information ranging from early years and school provision for children to college courses and employment and training opportunities for adults. A large number of skilled interpreters were kept very busy and representatives of Somali community organisations were on hand to facilitate the smooth running of the session and contribute additional information on a range of cultural and educational activities.

One of the real strengths of this event was that the Islington EMAS Somali community workers played a large part in the planning and organisation, using their experience and knowledge of community needs to determine what information should be on offer and which services should be represented to best serve the community. The event was successful not only in creating links between service providers and the Somali community but also in creating opportunities for networking between the numerous Somali community organisations present from Islington and from neighbouring boroughs.

Islington Somali Education Day was rounded off when the children and their carers in the crèche joined parents for a lunch of delicious traditional Somali food, balloons, face painting and aroma therapy!

Conversations over lunch, made it quite clear that parents and community organisers alike, welcomed this opportunity to gain information, get advice and share experiences.

Service providers agreed that it had been a wonderful opportunity to encourage and support educational achievement for Somali children and their parents too.

The success of this Somali community event has been dazzling, and by popular demand EMAS will endeavour to do it again next year, bigger and better!

Many thanks to Islington Children's Fund for its support.

David Davies
Refugee and Community Advisory Teacher

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- Cassius Francis
Senior Learning
Mentor and Policy
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of African Caribbean
& African Heritage
- EMAS Training

If you have any items that you would like to share with colleagues in future editions of this newsletter please contact

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Did you know that Portuguese is the fastest growing language in Islington schools?

The 2003 Language Survey in Islington schools has yielded much fascinating and useful information. For example, the number of Portuguese speakers has increased by over 50% since 2001 and the number of Somali speakers has increased from 533 to 721.

Nearly 40% of Islington pupils now speak English as an additional language. Our schools are now host to 130 different languages.

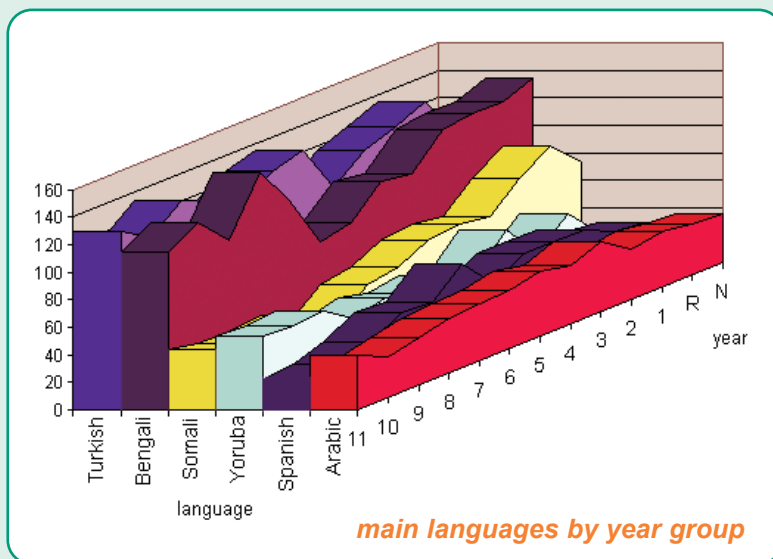
There are:

- 3 languages with more than 1000 speakers
- 7 languages with more than 500 speakers
- 14 languages with more than 200 speakers
- 22 languages with more than 100 speakers
- 28 languages with more than 50 speakers.

The highest percentage of pupils with EAL in a school is 69% and the lowest is 5%. In eleven schools more than half the pupils have EAL and in more than two thirds of our schools more than one third of pupils have EAL.

The most widely spoken languages after English are Bengali and Turkish with around 1500 speakers each. Bengali and Turkish speakers are concentrated in a small number of schools with 50% of the speakers of each language being in just 15% of schools.

The language survey is hugely helpful to EMAS in planning our work and we would like to thank schools for their prompt and accurate returns.



EMAS Central Professional Development

Our in-service training this year has had three strands: Short courses, ESL in the Mainstream and the Accredited EMA course.

Short courses:

The EMA short courses have been numerous and popular and by the end of the summer term we expect figures of participants on short courses and network meetings to have reached nearly a thousand. For short courses at the Barnsbury Centre during the Summer term 2003 please see below:

ESL in the Mainstream:

This acclaimed Australian course for mainstream teachers has been delivered centrally for primary teachers and on site in a number of secondary schools: Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Language

College for Girls and Central Foundation Boys School last term and Holloway School and St. Aloysius College during the Spring and Summer. Arrangements are also going ahead for the course to be delivered in Islington Green School in the Summer term and more are planned for the Autumn.

Accredited EMA Course:

This course started in January 2003. It is a cross-phase course, accredited by the University of Greenwich covering practical and theoretical issues related to Ethnic Minority Achievement. The current course finishes in July, but will be run again starting in September 2003. It has proved a popular course with fourteen participants currently attending and a waiting list building up, so teachers

Useful Websites

<http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/B/blackhistorymap/>

This is a gateway to websites about black and Asian history across the British Isles.

You can search for sites by location (via the map), time period (via the timeline) or subject (via the search facility).

<http://www.cogsci.ed.ac.uk/~siamakr/kurdica2.html>

On line Kurdish magazine with an extensive archive of cultural and language resources.

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/professionaldevelopment/opportunities/bprs/Search_BPRS_Reports/

Type English as an additional language into the search box and you can access eleven very recent studies by classroom teachers, funded through Best Practice Research Scholarships

wishing to apply for the September course are advised to get their applications in early.

Cassius Francis

Senior Learning Mentor and Policy Advisor for Pupils of African Caribbean & African Heritage

After completing a degree in architecture I began a career as a Project Worker with Southwark Council's Black Mentor Scheme. While working as a Youth & Community Worker in Finsbury Park, I completed my postgraduate studies in Youth & Community Work at Brunel University.

I started work as a Learning Mentor at an Islington primary school, and before joining CEA@Islington (February 2003) I was employed as a Case Worker with Haringey's Special Educational Needs Section. I continue to work voluntarily as a trustee for the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust and throughout the year on a project for children who live on the streets in Ukraine culminating in a two-week summer camp.



My role within the EMAS team is to -

- To assist in delivering the strategy for raising the achievement of pupils of African Caribbean and African heritage
- To help schools to develop effective strategies for working with parents of pupils of African Caribbean and African heritage and community groups
- To support the dissemination of good practice (primarily for Primary and Secondary Learning Mentors)
- To organise and run training for staff on meeting the needs of underachieving pupils of African Caribbean and African heritage

In a recent article in the Voice Newspaper, Tony Sewell commented that, *'When black infant boys enter the school system aged five, all too often they find themselves on the edge of the abyss.'* While I recognise that this does not reflect the situation of all black boys in Islington schools, the overwhelming trend in results are a real cause for concern. My aim while I am employed with EMAS is to have a positive impact in my work with the schools, parents, pupils and the wider community so that the start of school is not 'the abyss', but a launch pad for these pupils to achieve great things.

Course Title	Audience	Date
Clicker	EMAS central team	07.05.03
Working with refugee pupils	NQTs	08.05.03 Two sessions
Senior Managers' Network	Senior managers in secondary schools with responsibility for ethnic minority achievement	13.05 2003
EMA HODs Networking	Secondary EMA HODs	21.05.03
Racism & Dealing with Racist Incidents in School	Primary Teachers with responsibility for Race Equality, Teaching staff	11.06.03 9:00-12:15
EMA and the Key St. 3 Strategy	EMA and English teachers	25.06.03
Focus on Good Practice in Admission and Induction Procedures for Ethnic Minority Pupils	Primary Teachers with responsibility for EMA	25.06.03 1:45-4:00
Primary EMA Managers meeting "Sharing good practice focus".	Primary Teachers with responsibility for EMA	07.08.03 2:00-4:00
Racism and Dealing with Racist Incidents in School	Primary Teaching Assistants and Meal-Time supervisors	08.07.03 9:30-12:15

For further information, please contact Vibee Bradbury on 020 7527 5634.

GOOD PRACTICE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY CHILDREN IS GOOD PRACTICE FOR ALL CHILDREN



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