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**'Looking at language': Linguistics in the classroom**

In this presentation we share our recent experiences of running a series of workshops which introduced pupils in local secondary schools to the discipline of linguistics and some of the basic key concepts of the field.

A huge challenge for academics is to make the body of specialist knowledge accessible to the wider community in a way that stimulates interest and reveals the value of what is studied. In this case we were bringing specialist linguistics knowledge before an audience of fourteen year olds who might never have encountered linguistics before, or indeed the possibility that language can be analysed in a rigorous and scientific manner.

Our presentation will outline how we designed an interactive and informative workshop tailored for this audience, the challenges this involved (and the support that was available), and how well things worked on the ground when we reached the classroom.

We found it a thoroughly valuable and rewarding experience, and something which we would highly recommend to other postgrads within Linguistics and English Language. The workshops were made possible through an outreach scheme originally built up within the college of Science and Engineering, and although this is only the second year that Linguistics and English Language has been part of this scheme, there is very high demand among local schools for more language-related workshops.

First and second year PhDs and MSc students are particularly encouraged to attend this presentation, with a view to continuing and expanding this outreach in the future.