



# Platform

The Newsletter of Sanako UK for MFL Teacher & Lecturer

HIGHER EDUCATION | FURTHER EDUCATION | SECONDARY EDUCATION

## Listen, Speak, Repeat.

### On Line Pronunciation Testing and Feedback

Set up your class for homework using Google Chrome or the Sanako App.

Using the latest text-to-speech technology, **Sanako Pronounce Live** now allows you to set up remote classes for pronunciation practice with live feedback for the user and reporting for the teacher.

Now with variable playback speed the tutor can quickly create exercises by pasting or free typing text into the exercise box and simply clicking 'listen'.

The text will be heard in an authentic voice in any one of the 26 languages selected.



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# Edge Hill University; Language Teaching for the Future

Carmel Roche,  
The Language Centre Director,  
Edge Hill University

Edge Hill University is based on an attractive, award-winning 160-acre campus in Lancashire, close to Liverpool and Manchester. The institution has been providing higher education since 1885, with a mission to create opportunity from knowledge.

The institution's significant success in achieving its mission is recognised by a range of awards and high rankings for teaching, student experience, accommodation and more. Edge Hill is ranked as Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), the government's evaluation of excellence in teaching quality, learning environment and student outcomes.

The University is also one of the select few to have held the coveted UK University of the Year title, awarded by Times Higher Education (2014-2015). The Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which includes the ever popular Language Centre, has contributed greatly to the success of the University in various way.

We plan to open up our newly named 'Language Lounge' to students as a self-access facility; a place they can come to practise their language, whether this is English or any of the other languages we teach here in the Language Centre at Edge Hill University (Spanish, French, Mandarin, German, Italian and Arabic). They can also read the newspapers in various languages, borrow books or just sit on our two comfy leather sofas.

In terms of English language, we have pronunciation worksheets that students can use. All they have to do is sit down and record themselves using the privacy of the Sanako Lab system. We have also used the lab for speaking assessments in the various languages and this has worked very well. The area we wish to grow is in the use of the Lab in a teaching context as we are not doing enough of this at the current time.

*"We're still 'novices' at Edge Hill compared to some language centres but the important thing is that we are quickly learning how get the best out of our Sanako Study 1200 system and how it will greatly benefit our students."*

David Binns from Sanako UK has been so helpful in guiding us through and he is always willing to visit Edge Hill to assist us (either that or we make good tea!)

The most important point is that we are learning and we don't pretend to be experts yet. We hope to be able to visit those of you who are more expert in this area, particularly to focus on teaching contexts and varied ways of using the Sanako Lab so please don't be surprised if you get a call from us.



Sanako Study 1200 Language Centre  
& Language Lounge

# St Mary's Catholic High School;

## Focusses on Speaking and Listening for MFL

Anne Leroux,  
Head of French,  
St Mary's Catholic High School

St Mary's Catholic High School in Chesterfield has made the most of funding received from The Wolfson Foundation to refurbish and update their Language Lab, which included choosing Sanako Study 1200 as their preferred software.

All languages staff have received training on how to make the best possible use of this software system with its new functionalities.

I particularly like the **Sanako Pronounce** software which enables pupils to practice (and automatically be tested on) any sentences that I, or they, have written orally. The quality of the French voice and the text to speech facility is impressive. Pupils have been enjoying this as it really helps their pronunciation.

### Role Play

The pupils have been able to have discussions with each other through the headphones. They can conduct role play activities with anyone in the class and without having to move around at all. It is really easy for them to communicate quickly with the teacher or to do group work without distracting others.

### Screen Tutoring and Image Description

The screen tutoring function has also been very useful when showcasing a pupil's work or simply to model work to the whole class. The Image description activity allows me to collect back all student responses for ease of marking, which saves a great deal of time.

### Grouping Function

With the different grouping function pupils can be more independent with their work and work at their own pace; while one part of the class is finishing a piece of work or a test, pupils who are finished can move on to a listening activity or a language vocabulary game. When everyone has completed their work, with just a few clicks, I can collect everything to mark later, whether it is a presentation, written word document or a listening file of a speaking test, which makes oral assessments easy.

"The Sanako Classroom has really changed the way we use ICT in our languages lessons. We send a big thank you to all the people who have been involved in making this happen! As a state school with limited funds, we have found this to be a really worthwhile investment. I love seeing the excitement and enthusiasm of students when they find out we are in the Language Lab for a lesson."

Four years after receiving funding from the Wolfson Foundation, our IT system has just had a major overhaul, including upgrading our version of Sanako. David Binns from Sanako UK Ltd was, once again, really professional and helpful and our French, German and Spanish students and teachers are ready to start the new school year with the software they know and love. We are particularly excited about the launch of the new language point, which will support us in making the most of Sanako in years to come.



St Mary's Catholic High School's Language Lab, which includes Sanako Study 1200

# Solihull 6th Form College;

## Colleges Around the UK enhance their MFL Provision

**Beverley Hodson,**  
Head of MFL,  
Solihull 6th Form College

We are a large Sixth Form College offering five languages to A level: French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Each year we have approximately 200 students studying a language in the department.

We are very fortunate to have two very different models of Sanako Language Labs, the **Sanako Lab 100** and **Sanako Study 1200**. All students are timetabled for at least one lesson a week in the Lab 100 and also in the Study 1200, although some groups are able to have all their lessons in one of the language laboratories.

Both systems are in constant use every day.

### Sanako Lab 100

With Lab 100 we make extensive use of the pairing facility; students are paired to discuss questions together for role play, such as examiner and examinee, prior to the oral exam. Often the students work with a specific partner or partners (tutor selected) but also we simply select the partners randomly. The tutor is able to monitor and give instant feedback to the students and we automatically collect their recordings to evaluate after the lesson. Students can work in any group size, for example; a group of four for debates - two students arguing for an issue and two against.



Sanako Lab 100 Digital Hardware System

This is also useful if we have different groups of students working on different activities as the tutor can instantly check on work that has been done in a lesson.

We often open a Word document and make notes on the student's recordings (highlighting areas for improvement with regard to pronunciation, grammar, vocab., etc) and then over the weeks we can update their progress.

"Having the labs provides us with an excellent opportunity to work on pronunciation with the students without having to put them 'on the spot' in front of the rest of the class."

The Language Labs are great for listening exercises which again can be used in a variety of ways, usually students have control over their own recordings, working at their own pace. This is excellent for differentiation of course, the stronger students can work on more demanding exercises. Students appreciate the fact that they are timetabled in the Language Labs for their exams. The Sanako equipment is really user friendly and the quality of the headsets is excellent. In the Lab 100 the phone conversation and the quiz facility are both fun activities to do with students on occasions.

### Sanako Study 1200

In addition to the activities discussed above, the Sanako Study 1200 with networked computers is even more interactive. Whatever the teacher is showing on his/her screen can be relayed to the students.



Sanako Study 1200 Networked Software System

If you are watching a film on a screen at the front, this can also be shown on student's individual screens. The chat facility is something that students enjoy using. If you want to brainstorm a new topic or test a particular grammar point, students can all type in their ideas and everyone's responses can then be shared on the screen at the front of the class.

The Lab is ideal, of course, for independent research. Students can work on group presentations, watch news clips, have a number of documents open on their screen while listening to a recording.

# Thomas Rotherham College;

## Colleges Around the UK enhance their MFL Provision

**Francisca Mejias-Yedra,**  
Head of Languages,  
Thomas Rotherham College

As the leading provider of post-16 education in the local area, with a student population of around 1,500, and growing, Thomas Rotherham College is an exciting post-16 choice for young people from across Rotherham and the surrounding area.

There has been a centre of academic excellence on the TRC site for over 500 years and the sixth form college has a long and enviable tradition of providing the very best educational opportunities for young people locally.

As a sixth form college, Thomas Rotherham specialises in Level 3 courses, with students following a predominantly traditional A Level programme in academic subjects, but with a rapidly increasing vocational provision.

The college has been recognised locally and nationally for its provision and is the largest provider of A Level courses in the area. Teachers at Thomas Rotherham College are specialists in Level 3 education, but some Level 2 courses are part of our offer too. All learners benefit from extensive enrichment of their study programme. This ranges from rock climbing courses to sign language and first aid qualifications. Thomas Rotherham College is a very special place and its students benefit from a truly wonderful learning environment. Its commitment to excellence has seen TRC grow and develop its buildings, classrooms and learning spaces with the 2019 stage being the expansion of the Languages Centre. The imposing architecture of the main central college building offers an impressive and inspiring setting and is set amongst extensive grounds and playing fields.

### Languages at TRC

The college offers modern foreign language A Levels in French, German and Spanish. In addition, an adult provision of non-accredited language courses is also available for those people who want to learn a language for leisure. Our language students have access to a wide range of modern facilities at the college, including the latest Study Range of Sanako language labs, a virtual learning platform, a vast offer of books and foreign language films or subscriptions to magazines and websites. Also, every year, the college offers them trips to one or more of the following destinations: Berlin, Paris Madrid, Seville, Ahaus, Valencia or Bergerac.

For over a decade now, Thomas Rotherham College has enjoyed versatile Sanako language lab facilities. This has allowed our language students to develop their listening and speaking skills using the various facilities that the Sanako software offers. We are able to integrate the use of the labs in our lessons and students enjoy both the fact that they can control the recordings or that they converse with their peers when we use the pairing facilities which the system includes.

*“Every step of the way, from the moment we chose a professional software lab, we have had fantastic support from the Sanako UK staff. We are now upgrading our systems and comfortably know that the guidance and training will be there from them. It’s a trust thing.”*



Sanako Study 700 Language Centre

# The Association for Language Learning;

## The Gruffalo Enthuses Young Language Learners

Jane Harvey, President ALL  
(Association for Language Learning)



Julia Donaldson's best selling children's picture book 'The Gruffalo' is loved by children everywhere and has been translated into over 26 languages.

It makes a great starting point for an exciting and engaging primary language project as the pupils know the story really well already and can straight away speak with confidence, concentrating on pronunciation and fluency. I have used this book as the basis for two slightly different projects.

## Project One

The first project in 2016 used a multilingual version of the story which Julia had created for a publishers conference in Italy.

The narrator of the story speaks in English, but each animal that the mouse meets on its journey through 'the deep dark wood' speaks another language and the mouse answers them in the same language. The Fox speaks French, the Owl German and the Snake Italian whilst the Gruffalo is a Lowland Scot.

For this project, which was hosted by Monmouth School for Girls, 90 Year 6 pupils from 9 primary schools spent a day doing Gruffalo related activities in workshops led by Year 12 pupils from the three Monmouth Secondary schools. The languages used were French, German, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and Welsh.

After a range of ice breaking activities based on the book, Year 12 pupils rehearsed with Year 6 in small groups and then recorded the scene, with appropriate sound effects.



The day ended with another complete performance of the story, this time as a radio show - with each scene in a different language.

The scenes in Mandarin Chinese were particularly successful in pronunciation and fluency as the pupils learn their lines without written support.

“The Yr 5 class really enjoyed this project - they all knew their lines by heart, everyone had a speaking part and their pronunciation was excellent.”



## Project Two

**The second project took place in 2018. As part of their Global Futures programme, the Welsh Government will be introducing another language in addition to Welsh (or in addition to English in Welsh medium schools) to the primary school curriculum from 2022.**

The Head of Languages at Monmouth Comprehensive School and her A level German group worked with Year 5 pupils at Osbaston Church in Wales School, one of their feeder primary schools, none of whom knew any German.

From January to April 2018, staff and students went to the primary school one afternoon a week to teach the vocabulary and structures needed to understand the Gruffalo in German. In between these visits, the pupils had the support of their class teacher and Deborah Morgan, a Teaching Assistant and herself a language teacher.

The Year 5 class really enjoyed this project - they all knew their lines by heart, everyone had a speaking part and their pronunciation was excellent.

Since then, Deborah has started a German club at Osbaston School in both Year 5 and 6 and plans are afoot for another event next year based on local author Sam Hay's picture book, "Star in the Jar", which has been translated into German as "Mein Freund, der Stern."

Finally, many congratulations to Deborah who received a very well deserved Special Mention for her work in introducing German to Osbaston School in this year's German Teacher of the Year awards.



If you would like more information on this exciting project please feel free to contact me at the Association for Language Learning [info@all-languages.org.uk](mailto:info@all-languages.org.uk)

# Cardinal Newman College;

## Colleges Around the UK enhance their MFL Provision

**Sally Conroy,**  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages,  
Cardinal Newman College

### A Level Modern Foreign Languages Thrives in Preston

Cardinal Newman College is a Catholic sixth form college close to the centre of Preston. Students learn French, German and Spanish A Level and the languages department is one of the biggest and most successful in the Northwest with students travelling from Preston, South Ribble, Chorley and the Fylde Coast.

The dawn of a new A Level, which places more emphasis on listening skills, has prompted us to increase the time spent in class on listening comprehension, allowing students to practise skills, both technique and responses, under our guidance.

Our existing **Sanako LAB 100** system has facilitated this change easily and with each student having access to an individual listening station they can work independently without fuss. This mirrors the A level procedure with each student operating their own MP3 player in the final exam and is something students are not used to at GCSE. Learning to operate equipment and not spend a disproportional amount of time on this element of the exam is key to success.



Sanako Lab 100 Digital Language Centre

Our Sanako Lab 100 System is also used for paired speaking with students in different corners of the classroom. They work on a dialogue which involves them translating and responding as well as listening to the response of their partner without any of the normal conversational visual cues.



*“This is an excellent way to practise a number of exam skills simultaneously and students have commented on how much they enjoy this!”*

However, after 15 years of using the suite numerous times a week, we are really looking forward to upgrading to the **Sanako Study 700** system in September. The fact that the existing Sanako Lab 100 equipment has lasted this long is testimony to the quality of the product. We are already planning how we can use the new updated features to provide exciting and challenging resources for next year's students. Being able to set up the files remotely will be a real bonus in such a busy department where lesson transitions need to be smooth and quick so that students don't miss vital learning time.



Sanako Study 700 Interactive Language Centre



# The University of Surrey;

## Focussing on Languages and Interpreting skills

In 1966 the University of Surrey was established with the grant of its Royal Charter, but its roots go back to the 19th-century to provide greater access to further and higher education for the inhabitants of London.

Previously Battersea Polytechnic Institute, it was founded in 1891 and began concentrating on science and technology from around 1920. Its academic reputation steadily grew to the point where, in 1956, it was one of the first institutions to be designated a 'college of advanced technology'. It was renamed Battersea College of Technology in 1957.

Since 2000, our estate has been transformed through a £400 million building development and improvement programme, including £130 million on student accommodation, £36 million on Surrey Sports Park, £16 million on the Library and Learning Centre and £4.5 million on the Ivy Arts Centre.

*“At the forefront of this academic reputation is the School of Literature and Languages, which was ranked in the top three for modern languages and linguistics in the Guardian University Guide 2019, top five for Iberian languages in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019.”*

Providing an outstanding teaching experience for students, the School of Literature and Languages also incorporates the latest advanced technology to complement their teaching boasting 4 wall mounted Sanako Lab 100 Digital Language Systems. To make the most of available classroom space these systems are wall mounted making the room dual purpose. It can either be general teaching space or a dedicated language laboratory when required. The rooms can also be made available for independent speaking, listening and pronunciation practice as required.

The School of Literature and Languages is home to the Centre for Translation Studies (CTS), a well-established specialist research centre dedicated to teaching, scholarship and research in translation studies. Since our founding in 1982, we've established an international reputation for both our research and our innovative taught programmes.



Our scholars are actively involved in the national and international translation and interpreting studies scene. CTS has a professional Conference Interpreting Suite, Sanako Study dual track recording software for remote simultaneous and consecutive interpreting exercises.



Sanako Conference Interpreting Software



Sanako Lab 100 Language Centre

# University of East Anglia; New Software Conference Interpreting Technology Arrives at UEA

**Sally Conroy,**  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages,  
Cardinal Newman College

Located in the heart of East Anglia, the School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies is based in the Arts Building at the centre of the University of East Anglia campus.

The School brings together staff and students studying a wide range of subjects including politics, international relations, broadcast journalism, media, public policy, philosophy, language competency, inter-cultural communication, and translation & interpreting studies. The School is interdisciplinary bringing together teaching and research strengths in these areas and developing a growing reputation for inter-cultural communication through the history of ideas, philosophical thinking, language and understanding the power, meaning and practice of communication.

The School has a lively, stimulating and welcoming atmosphere with each disciplinary area enjoying high levels of student satisfaction. It was ranked in the top 20 in the UK for Philosophy in the Guardian University League Table 2019. The School enjoys excellent facilities with a state of the art Sanako Study 1200 language learning centre, access to a fully equipped television studio, and hosts a large number of public events throughout the year including talks by visiting politicians, practitioners, translators and philosophers. There are lively philosophy, language and communication and political seminars.

In the summer of 2019 the department invested in the future of conference interpreting studies with a refresh of their facilities.



UEA Digital Conference Interpreting Suite

*“Always forward thinking, and wanting to incorporate technology the students were comfortable with, it was decided to add the very latest Conference Interpreting System software from Sanako.”*

This advanced module, which can be added to the existing Sanako Study 1200 already installed, offers full function conference interpreting & conference activities but in a software format making it flexible, intuitive and a cost effective resource. Multiple activities and groups can run simultaneously with delegates sitting at the conference table whilst the interpreters practice in the dedicated sound proof booths and interact accordingly. Additionally this module comes complete with an unlimited download of Sanako Study Lite Recorder, not only providing for traditional audio and video exercises to be accessed by the student, but can also accommodate simultaneous and consecutive audio and video activities allowing students to practice the skills remotely or on the move. This enhancement will surely add to the growing reputation UEA.

An intuitive and flexible tutor interface allows the user to rapidly select and distribute all kinds of media to multiple students as required, also allowing the option of automatically collecting back all student recordings in MP3 format with a variety track options available.

The Sanako software enables students to enjoy actively engaging in paired activities or with randomly selected partners, in final year interpreting seminars, which prepare students for future careers in this field or postgraduate studies.

# Tips and Tricks;

## Getting the best from your Sanako Language Lab

For further information see the Sanako "how to" videos on [www.sanako.co.uk](http://www.sanako.co.uk)

### Automatic Voice Insert for Oral Assessments

Tip by Winchester College

Using the voice insert tool on **Sanako Study 1200 & Sanako Study 700** systems helps to simplify & speed up the whole class oral assessment process.



After clicking the Auto Collect button you will have an MP3 file for every student in class, with naming process for identification, ready for you to assess.



Switch on the Auto Voice Insert facility and listen to a student recording. When you feel you need to add a comment simply click the Speak button. The advanced software will insert your voice into the recording without deleting any of the students work. Then simply save as an MP3 file and return to the student or save to you file server or VLE.

**Alternatively the same process can be used for creating Q & A exercises for students with supporting graphics, subtitles and instructions.**

### Teacher Controlled Playlists to Save Time in Class

Tip by Queensmead School

An intuitive method of handing work out to students is the **Tutor Controlled Playlist** saving time and class disruption.



When logged in, the tutor's file area on the server appears. To distribute exercises to the whole class (or ability group) simply click and drag that file to the group area. Please note that this is a copy so the original is never changed.



Then, as students arrive in the class and login, they are detected by the software and copies of the exercises are automatically downloaded for them to begin work immediately.



Playlists can be saved by class name and can be created inside the Language Lab or remotely. They can contain audio, video, text, PowerPoint, spreadsheets and web pages as required. Should a student arrive late for a lesson, their playlist is pre-populated as soon as they login, minimising disruption to the rest of the class.

### Exercise Creation And Image Description Activity by Whole Class

Tip by Sanako UK

Depending upon which Sanako version you have installed, simple interactive exercises can be created in minutes by either the teacher for sharing or by all students to create on their own.



Simply take any audio or video file, type or paste some text for subtitles, add an image from any source, perhaps add an instructions page or questions, and then click save.



Any material created can be re-purposed as many times as required by simply adapting the existing content to highlight different areas.

**These exercises can be shared with students in the lab for instant feedback and support or online for homework. Thus keeping your content relevant and engaging for students.**

### Web Management Techniques Via The Internet Control System

Tip by Sanako UK

The internet can be either a help or a hindrance in today's classroom.



With the latest **Sanako Web Management system** teachers can select which websites should be blocked and which should be made available to students.



Alternatively lock students on to a selected website and deny any other site access from them.



These settings can be saved as required and simply selected at start up so there is no need to re-enter details every time.

**Additional activity allows the recording of internet radio broadcasts in a target language, which can then be used for translation & interpretation activities.**

# Akademi Teknik dan Keselamatan Penerbangan (Flight Engineering & Training Academy, Indonesia)

David Binns, Sanako UK

**Sanako UK was pleased to welcome a delegation from Indonesia to its training centre at the wonderful Carrwood Park complex in Leeds.**

Responsible for air traffic control and other activities, the team wanted advanced tuition to get the most from their recently installed **Sanako Study 1200** system.



ATKP Training Session at Sanako UK

The date was set, the training room was readied using various devices, the agenda and welcome packs prepared and the training was delivered exactly as required without any issues and, most importantly, we had fun - as this is the best way to learn.

The training was made easier by the enthusiasm of the delegates and their willingness to learn. I even managed to learn a few words of Indonesian Bahasa. The whole day was a great experience for all involved and I believe friendships were made on both sides. We look forward to welcoming a delegation from Nigeria in the near future.

# Would you like to contribute to the next Platform newsletter?

## Get in touch

We'd love to hear about your experiences with Sanako Language Labs. Whether you have an interesting teaching idea, a successful project, student comments and opinions, questions for other users or your own Language Lab hints and tips to share, let us know and we'll include them in the next issue to help ensure everyone gets the very best from their Sanako Language Lab systems.

Please email us at:  
[ukenquiries@sanako.com](mailto:ukenquiries@sanako.com)

