

Reaping benefits of second language

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Dragons said 'non' to investment in the Den but Sheffield schools have backed Lingotot Language School with a resounding 'oui'.

Lingotot, which teaches hundreds of pre and primary school aged children across Sheffield, appeared in the formidable BBC Dragons' Den earlier this month, but on this occasion the Dragons said 'non'.

While it was a 'non' to investment, it was a resounding 'oui' to the language business itself which is owner-managed in Sheffield by Jacques Barthélémy and provides classes to toddlers and primary school children across the city.

Despite refusing investment, the dragons praised the languages business for what it offers children and suggested that the business would continue to grow organically.

It's not only the dragons who recognise the benefits of the business. A growing

number of primary schools across Sheffield are now turning to the language specialist to deliver interactive language classes in school.

Following the introduction of compulsory language lessons for all KS2 children in England and Wales, Sheffield based Prince Edward Primary School appointed Lingotot in September 2016 to deliver French lessons to all its pupils from year three and have been astounded by the results and progress.

The teaching, which takes place on a weekly basis, includes a mixture of song and interactive learning, and the children are working towards achieving a Certificate in Primary Languages,

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accredited by NCFE.

Kim Lohoar, a year five class teacher at the school, said: "My class have absolutely loved French, and they look forward to it every week.

"The children are always engaged during lessons and have made great progress.

"We have even been able to carry over some of the work into other lessons."

French native and now Sheffield resident Jacques Barthélémy has operated his successful Lingotot business since January 2016.

He said: "The benefits of speaking a second language at an early age are well documented and teaching early is critical to the language acquisition.

"My twin boys are being brought up bilingual and watching them naturally switch from one language to another - without even realising they are doing so - always amazes me.

"It also reinforces my views, and that of the experts, that children have a natural ability to 'soak up' information, especially languages, from an early age."



A Prince Edward School class with Jacques Barthélémy, back right