

16th June 2014

Dear Chris

I am writing to say a huge thank you to you and the actors who kindly delivered a workshop to a large group of our international students recently at British Study Centres School of English in Oxford.

You and your colleagues from ART provided an engaging and useful workshop for our international students, whose levels of English speaking competence varied quite considerably.

One of the main challenges for our students, due to the fact that they often find themselves practising English in fairly homogeneous classroom groups, can be communicating with students at different levels to their own. The role-playing workshop that ART facilitated provided these students with the need to find communication strategies, non-verbal or more carefully selected language, in order to bridge the communication gap between less competent and more competent users of English than themselves.

Furthermore, they were required to express themselves using different aspects of pronunciation; intonation and sentence stress – these are areas of language learning that are notoriously difficult to learn as students often feel inhibited in a classroom context, but the ART actors soon got the students shaking off any fears and expressing themselves!

One of our teachers, Taghrid, who was in attendance said of the evening:

The Almost Random Theatre acting workshop was very useful and a lot of fun for all the students involved. The session allowed the students to participate in an improvised performance as well as plan and perform their own plays. Both of the activities allowed them to practice their communication and to improve on the fluency of their spoken English. All students were very actively involved in brainstorming their ideas and were energetic and enthusiastic during the performances. It was beneficial for me to observe how drama can be used in the classroom as a learning tool that enables students to be proactive!

Once again we are incredibly grateful to you and your ART colleagues for kindly putting this together, and we hope to welcome ART back to British Study Centres very soon!

Yours sincerely

Niko Phillips

School Director

British Study Centres Oxford