

Slaney Language Centre

English language school celebrates decade in business

Continued success to Lisa from:

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Best wishes and congratulations to Lisa and the team of Slaney Language Centre for the future.

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A LANGUAGE school in Ferrycarrig has taught English to hundreds of people over the past decade, enabling them to leave the Emerald Isle with a new vocabulary and confident in a language spoken

throughout the world. Owned and run by German lady, Lisa Bartsch, Slaney Language Centre caters for adults and takes the business of education seriously, even if most students find themselves having

mighty fun while learning. The business opened in 1999. It only had one classroom. Today it has five classrooms, a self-study room, three year-round teachers, as well as seasonal staff.

Ms. Bartsch and her staff deal with agencies from all over the world looking to place adult students of all ages in a quality language school. Word-of-mouth has been key to the success of Slaney Language Centre. The majority of the students are aged between 22 and 40 and come from Spain, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Korea and Japan. Most European students stay for between two weeks

and a month, while Asian students often stay for a year. Teachers focus on improving the students' communication skills, mainly through listening and speaking activities and exercises. Much of the students' class time is given over to dialogues, role plays, discussions, games, short presentations and listening exercises using authentic sources. Reading and writing



Students brushing up on their English in class.

Continued success to Slaney Language Centre

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Slaney Language Centre

are practised to improve fluency and accuracy. Vocabulary and grammar is incorporated into the communications activities, and supplementary exercises focusing on specific lexical items are introduced in a structured way.

But the main focus is always on using and developing language to communicate information.

Whole families come to experience the Irish way of life and learn the language. Most students stay in town at really good host families who make the students part of their home. The host families also benefit from the culture students bring with them, often cooking and passing on home traditions.

Ms. Bartsch and her team organise activities like Irish dancing, beach walks and storytelling workshops for the pupils.

Ms. Bartsch recalls many people who have passed through her doors like the Italian opera director who wanted to learn some English while working on Wexford Festival Opera and the octogenarian French couple who arrived with no English and left with a passion for the language.

Like all businesses Slaney Business Centre has been somewhat quieter this year, but with the popularity of the venue this summer will no doubt see a surge in custom. That is because Slaney Language Centre offers a personal touch and small classes.

Ms. Bartsch is a savvy business woman and runs courses throughout the year, not just in English, but in several languages. During Wexford Festival Opera there is an over 50s course, while courses in German, French and Spanish and Italian for Irish people are starting on Wednesday, March 18th and run for six weeks.

A Cambridge First Certificate exam language course also begins in May and runs for three weeks.

To contact Slaney Language Centre phone (053) 9120881, email: info@wexford-language.com; or check out the website at www.wexford-language.com



Students on the culture course for 50+ students on The Dunbrody Famine Ship.

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