

# CASE STUDY

## virtual paris

EBP  
NATIONAL NETWORK

L O N D O N R E G I O N

**Theme:** French  
**EBP:** HACKNEY EBP  
**Partners:** Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
**Students:** GCSE students of Haggerston Girls School, Technology College status

### Aims

- To support GCSE French pupils.

### Procedure

Freshfields have an ongoing partnership with Haggerston School and support students in a variety of ways. In 2003/4 the Community Affairs team, in partnership with school languages staff, and with the support of the Hackney EB, piloted this new project.

The company recruited French speakers from amongst its staff and recreated Paris in the staff restaurant! Volunteers were briefed before the day by the school's French teacher and given prompt questions relating to the GCSE syllabus.

### Programme

Students then visited for a day and were able to practise their conversational skills with the Freshfields volunteers through role plays in three 'locations': a coffee shop, a newsagents and a railway station (including lost property office!). Students were presented with scenarios that involved the girls having to deal with different situations, for example buying a coffee and a croissant, buying items in a shop, purchasing a ticket to travel and asking about lost property. During the afternoon the students were assessed by volunteers on how well they had done.

Haggerston School students practise their French with volunteers from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer at the Virtual Paris café

### Outcomes

- The project was considered a great success by students, school staff and the company.

### Progression

- It is being repeated in April 2005 for this year's GCSE cohort
- In addition to another Virtual Paris, Freshfields will also be offering a Virtual Madrid experience this year for GCSE Spanish students.