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Hull Collegiate School
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Year 10 Warm to the Cold War

Politicians, Presidents and Communist Dictators descended upon Year 10 just before the half-term holiday, to bring the Cold War to life. Acting out the period between 1945, the carve-up of Eastern Europe and the increasingly hostile relations between the East and the West, Year 10 pupils tackled a complicated period of history with the aid of *Act the Facts*, an education script writing company based in North Ferriby.

"The Cold War is one of the more academic parts of the syllabus which can be challenging for some students," said Mrs Clare Atkin, the Year 10 History teacher. "The History department felt that the physical process of the pupils acting out this period would clarify the chronology of the events leading up to the Cold War. It also provides a hook for the students to personalise their understanding and appeals to the more kinaesthetic learners in the group."

Kate Brennan, from *Act the Facts*, described the activity as a key revision tool. After having written an educational script based on the period, she directed the pupils in their roles as world players, commentators and observers of history.

"I use drama so that the pupils learn academic subjects in a physical way. Most children don't learn successfully from a worksheet," says Kate, a former teacher. "The session with the Year 10s was the most fabulous experience. The Cold War is very difficult, but the pupils handled it brilliantly. They worked collaboratively, attentively and had fun."

And the pupils agreed.

"Acting out the events made it seem more real," says John Clubley who took on the role of Roosevelt.

"I'll definitely remember more about this period now," says Rajan Kapur.

All good news, as the Senior School is currently embroiled in the annual summer examinations.

For more information about *Act the Facts*, log on to www.actthefacts.com

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