

To cite this article:

Caballero de Rodas, B. (2020). Open Letter to M^a José Lobo on the Occasion of her Retirement. *CLIL Journal of Innovation and Research in Plurilingual and Pluricultural Education*, 3(1), 65. <https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/clil.44>

<https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/clil.44>

e- ISSN: 2604-5613

Print ISSN: 2605-5893

Open Letter to M^a José Lobo on the Occasion of her Retirement



BEATRIZ CABALLERO DE RODAS

UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA



MARIA JOSÉ LOBO

Dear M^a José,

It has been so wonderful to work with you for so many years –I think it must be nearly 25 or so now! We have shared offices, teaching, the beginnings of a new branch of studies to prepare English language teachers, with the creation of innovative and engaging subjects, such as ‘Drama Techniques and Folklore’... We have also worked together in postgraduate courses and in-service programmes for English teachers, both at this faculty and in courses organised by the Department of Education. You have always contributed so many sensible, brilliant, creative ideas and suggestions! I have learned a lot with you and from you.

Of everything we have done together, I would like to highlight your contribution to the Richmond project. I know you feel –as I do- very proud of it, for it allowed our students to go abroad, learn about different cultures and expand their vision of the world. Likewise, this project allowed them to experience a different school system and discover new methods and approaches to teaching, while improving their proficiency in English. You came on board this project almost from its beginning and you put your time, wisdom, enthusiasm and willingness to make it a success. And you did it! The Richmond project was started 19 years ago and is still in force. It is somehow our legacy to this faculty.

Your work as a teacher and as a teacher educator has been an example to us all, María José. Your in-depth knowledge of

schools and their realities (at all levels!). Your ability to transmit this knowledge. Your common sense. Your realistic and yet ambitious objectives. Your tireless dedication. Your involvement in EDUCATION with capital letters. Your respect for your students and colleagues. Your creativity. Your sense of humour...

Moreover –and this is perhaps something you yourself are unaware of, María José- you master a very difficult art, the art of providing students with constructive and effective feedback on their teaching performances. You have a sincere, clear and yet tactful way of helping students discover their own strengths and weaknesses, while opening doors for them to find solutions. This is something I have witnessed many times during our school visits to Richmond.

I have often heard students say: ‘*When I am a teacher, I want to be like María José Lobo*’. I understand them. I think that if I started my professional career again, I would also say: ‘*I want to be like María José Lobo*’.

It has been a great pleasure to work with you, María José. You are also a wonderful friend and I appreciate your friendship more than I can say.

Thank you very much for everything you have given us and enjoy the ‘New Life’ that you have just started!

Bellaterra, 22 November 2019