

## Routes Cymru: a timely shot in the arm!

“Doctor, doctor - I’m not feeling too good. My stats are falling, I caught a cold at the options evening, and I seem to be banging my head against the wall at work. I think I’m a bit depressed. Can you help?”

If this sounds a bit familiar (and let’s be honest, members of the MFL teaching community could be forgiven for feeling a bit blue right now) then fear not, help is at hand! The HEFCW-funded ‘Routes into Languages Cymru’ project could be just the shot in the arm that you need. The project has got off to a flying start, but the good news is that there are a further two years’ funding available to boost MFL at all levels in Wales.

This project is one which brings together learners, teachers and lecturers from schools, FE colleges and HEIs. By sharing concerns and acting together, we believe that we can persuade more young people to continue with their language studies at all levels. So please do get involved in this campaign. Together we stand a better chance of getting our sickly subject out of bed and back on its feet again. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ceri James, Routes into Languages Cymru Director



## Croeso i Langollen!

**Routes Cymru helps Llangollen welcome visitors from around the world**

July was a very exciting time for the Routes into Languages Cymru team as we spent a whole week up at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod celebrating languages from around the world.

We were delighted that our small exhibition stand was buzzing with excitement as children and young people from the local area and further afield came to visit us and take part in our craft workshops. Whilst designing bags showing our support for our favourite teams in the world cup, we practised our German and Spanish and talked about which languages are spoken where. Our poster competition certainly brightened up our canvas walls with entries received from all ages. Competitors also popped in to teach us phrases in their languages such as Hindi and Icelandic.

This was a lovely event and a great showcase of different cultures and languages coming together. We are so pleased with the response that we received from our visitors and I think we all felt very privileged to be a part of this unique celebration.

## We’re here to help!

We appreciate that it can be very difficult to release funding for extra-curricular projects which is why we have done it for you. We would like to invite you to apply for funding that can help you and your pupils deliver innovative projects that raise the profile of MFL in your schools or FE college. A maximum of £300 can be applied for per project but we have not set a limit on how many projects any one school/college can run.

Use your imagination. Get the pupils involved. Inspire your colleagues. Share your love of languages!

For an application form and guidelines, please visit our website [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru) and click on Activities.

## News from our neighbours

### **Routes into Languages receives further funding**

We are delighted to announce that Routes into Languages has received further funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to enable all 9 Regional Consortia in England and both National Networks to continue working until 31 March 2011. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in Routes into Languages for their commitment and hard work. If you would like to know how to get involved in the Routes into Languages regional and network activities please contact your relevant Regional Consortia at: [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/consortia](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/consortia)

## Student Language Ambassadors

This autumn we will be working with our partner universities to recruit a new team of Student Language Ambassadors. They will be available to you for FREE to deliver motivational talks to Year 9, oral revision sessions at GCSE, AS and A Levels, advice on applying to study languages at university and lots of information about studying and working abroad.

Our Student Language Ambassadors are extremely enthusiastic and have many interesting experiences to share with your pupils. They are an asset to our project and most definitely inspire young language learners to have a good hard think about their future options.

If you are interested in finding out more about how our Student Language Ambassadors could help you, or if you would like to book a visit, please get in touch on [routescymru@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:routescymru@ciltcymru.org.uk)

## We're creating a BUZZ of excitement around languages

From September we will be running an MFL Spelling Bee across the country.

This competition aims to support young language learners as they are introduced to new languages by helping them build up a bank of useful vocabulary.

This year the language categories are:

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Welsh 2nd Language

The qualifying rounds will take place throughout the year and finalists will come together to compete in the National Final in July.

The teachers' pack, lists of vocabulary and registration forms can be downloaded from our website [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru) or please get in touch with Ellie Jones if you have any further questions.



## Forthcoming events

We are always on the lookout for fresh ideas for events. If you have any suggestions for events in your area, or would like to work with Routes into Languages Cymru, please contact us on [routescymru@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:routescymru@ciltcymru.org.uk)

### Opening Doors: Languages in Wales and the World

- Swansea University  
15 September 2010
  - University of Glamorgan  
17 September 2010
- This event is now fully booked**

### Skills Cymru

- Millennium Stadium Cardiff  
16-18 September 2010

### European Day of Languages Family Fun Day

- Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay  
26 September 2010

### Wales, Europe & the World

- Cardiff City Hall  
8 February 2010
- Glyndŵr University, Wrexham  
Date to be confirmed

### Networking Evenings for MFL Teachers

- Cardiff University, Aberystwyth University, Bangor University  
Dates to be confirmed

We will also be attending Careers Fairs around the country.

Further information about these events and details on registration can be found on our website [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru)

## European Day of Languages – join the celebrations!

This year's European Day of Languages is fast approaching and as it falls on a Sunday we thought it would be a shame to let it pass by without a celebration on the actual date. We are therefore busy planning a Family Fun Day to be hosted by the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay. As well as musical and theatrical performances on the Glanfa stage, we will be offering activities suitable for the whole family. Language tasters, music workshops and games from around the world are just a few of the things that will be on offer to you. There will even be opportunities to have a back stage tour in another language. All of these activities will be teamed with stalls so that you can find out more about language learning opportunities in Wales. With support from partners such

as the European Commission and the Confucius Institute this promises to be a fantastic way to spend your Sunday.

### Calling all multi-lingual artists –

The box office in the Wales Millennium Centre is believed to be the longest in Europe. As part of our celebrations we want to create a multi-lingual poster that stretches the length of this very long box office and we won't be able to do it without your help. We are therefore asking you to send us a word or phrase in a language other than your mother tongue on an A4 sheet of paper. Be creative! Make it as colourful as you like. You can then send it to us and we'll add your effort to the poster. For more details, please visit our website [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru)