

**It has been a busy time for the Routes into languages Cymru team, as you'll appreciate after reading this newsletter!**

On a broader front, we welcome the news that the Routes project in England is to receive additional funding from HEFCE, and we are also backing a UK-wide campaign for languages called 'Speak to the Future', which should help to raise the profile of MFL amongst UK governments and policy-makers.

At a recent event at the British Academy called 'Language matters more and more' (attended by some Routes Cymru partner HEIs) it was encouraging to hear words of support for languages from the Rt Hon David Willetts in his capacity as Minister for Universities and Science in England. Baroness Jean Coussins (Chair of the all-party Parliamentary Group for Modern Languages) called for a 'national recovery programme' for languages, and there were stirring speeches of support from Professor Michael Worton and British Academy Chief Executive Dr Robin Jackson.

Our work on the Routes Cymru project may be more prosaic, but it is equally vital as part of the campaign to improve the status of MFL in our educational establishments, within the business sector and in society as a whole.

Ceri James, Director,  
Routes into Languages Cymru

## Wales, Europe and the World

**700 pupils from around the country learn about Wales's European and global links.**



*Pupils from Glynderw High School try their hand at Chinese Calligraphy*

**Routes into Languages Cymru held the annual conferences, 'Wales, Europe and the World' in Cardiff and Wrexham and both were a great success.**

On 8th February, young people from across South Wales congregated in Cardiff City Hall for a day of workshops, speeches and information gathering. With thanks to sponsorship from Cardiff Council and contributions from other partners, Routes Cymru were able to deliver a day that offered a variety of opportunities to practise language skills, to learn about studying, working and volunteering abroad, to discover new cultures and to think about future careers.

This year the Cardiff and Vale Music Service formed a band named, der HAUSBAND, who performed a song in French, German, Spanish and English as lunchtime entertainment. Pupils, students, teachers and staff all enjoyed this additional activity.

The event in Wrexham, held at Glyndŵr University on 18th March, fitted into the programme of Wrexham's year of culture and we are grateful to our partners at Glyndŵr University and the Europe Direct Centres in Wrexham and Llangollen. The

day followed a similar pattern to the Cardiff event and all delegates thoroughly enjoyed visiting the exhibition and attending the workshops.

This year is the European Year of Volunteering which offered us the opportunity to include special workshops on both programmes specifically looking at this topic. CILT Cymru delivered sessions for older and younger pupils alike showing how to use their French language skills in a volunteering setting, using the context of the recent earthquake in Haiti. UNA Exchange brought along some volunteers currently involved in the Youth in Action programme to speak about their experiences and in Cardiff speakers from the Voluntary Community Service and the Wales for Africa teams spoke about opportunities in the local area and further afield.

These annual conferences are growing each year and we would like to thank all of our partners for their kind contributions that help us to spread the word about the importance of Wales's European and global links and to show young people how speaking another language can enable them to make the most of experiences at home and abroad.



*Bobby Singh gives a taste of Bhangra and Bollywood Dancing*

## Student Language Ambassadors a big hit

'Massive cool' was the response to a recent visit by student language ambassadors (SLAs) to one school in north Wales. Indeed, the SLAs have been very busy during the last two months visiting schools across the area from Anglesey to Wrexham and Flintshire. Many of the visits, although not all, involved presentations and talks for Year 9 pupils who were about to go through the GCSE options process. Visits have also included talks for pupils in KS4 and KS5, and a school careers' evening for parents.

The SLAs have talked about the overall benefits of learning another language, possible career paths, celebrities with language skills, and most particularly about their personal experiences as language students. Pupils have responded extremely well to the visits, have been

keen to ask questions, and have been delighted to receive some of the Routes into Languages Cymru 'useful phrases postcards', which always go down well. One visit involved a joint presentation by an SLA and one of the Erasmus students who is currently working as a foreign language assistant.

Another such visit is planned for later this term, and it is hoped that this cooperation can be built upon in future. SLAs are also available to offer advice about studying languages at university, oral revision sessions, and language taster sessions. If you would like an SLA from North / Mid Wales to visit your school, please contact Sian Beidas at [s.b.beidas@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:s.b.beidas@bangor.ac.uk) or in South Wales contact Rhian Jones at [rhian.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:rhian.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk).

## National Spelling Bee Competition

The National Spelling Bee is due to take place in Cardiff in July. Year 7 pupils from around the country will come together to compete for the titles of National Spelling Bee Champion in French, Spanish, German and Welsh 2nd Language. Look out for our feature in the next newsletter which will give details of our 2011 Champions.



*Pupils are as busy as bees preparing for the National Final*

## Get Creative!

### Routes Cymru launches a Poetry Competition for A Level students

In May 2011, Cardiff will join other cities in Europe to celebrate the TRANSEUROPA FESTIVAL. A variety of activities suitable for all ages will be taking place in Chapter Arts Centre. As well as showing our support at this festival with an information stand, we are keen to get young people involved. We have therefore launched a poetry competition for A Level students. Following the festival's theme of Sustainability, we have invited students currently studying for AS and A Levels in French, German, Spanish and Italian to write a poem. The entries will be judged by CILT Cymru staff and the author of the winning poem will have the opportunity to read their poem at the festival in Cardiff.

## News from across the border

The Routes into Languages programme in England has been awarded continuation funding, from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, to allow activities and partnership to continue until July 2012. This will co-incide with the Wales programme and we will all continue to benefit from shared expertise and partnership working on both sides of the border.

As the university sector adapts to changes in funding the Routes programme

continues to fly the flag for languages in a time of uncertainty. Jobs with languages continue to be sought and advertised; our future is global and we hear from employers that languages can play a large part in successful recruitment.

It is excellent to work with Routes Cymru and to see how their work is developing. We look forward to exciting times ahead in partnership.

Heather McGuinness, Programme Manager - Routes into Languages

## Forthcoming events

### Transeuropa Festival

- Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff
- 7 May 2011

### Networking evening for teachers

- Swansea University
- 11 May 2011

### National Urdd Eisteddfod

- Swansea
- 30 May – 4 June 2011

### Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod

- Llangollen
- 4 – 10 July 2011

### National Spelling Bee Final

- 13 July 2011

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