

Speedy Spellers at National Final

On Wednesday, 13th July 2011, 18 pupils from all over the country travelled down to the National Museum Cardiff to compete in the National Final of the Routes into Languages Cymru Spelling Bee Competition 2011.

The competition started back in September 2010 when the first 50 words were published and competitions were taking place in Year 7 languages classes all over the country. In fact, at this stage we had 4300 registered pupils from 43 schools. Throughout the year the competition has progressed with School and Regional competitions taking place and another 50 words were added at each stage. The 18 pupils that reached the National Final had a bank of 200 words to learn and they were competing in one of four categories; French, Spanish, German and Welsh 2nd Language.

The competition was opened by Routes Cymru and CILT Cymru Director, Ceri James who commended the competitors for having reached the final and spoke about how pleased he was to see so many boys taking part. This was followed by words of encouragement from Andy Klom, Head of the European Commission Office in Wales. He expressed his delight of having the opportunity to be a part of this exciting competition, especially when considering the European Union's promotion of multilingualism.

Starting with the Spanish competition, there were two pupils taking part and they well and truly set the standard. Next up was the Welsh 2nd Language competition in which all four competitors whizzed through their words.

French was the largest competition of the event, with eight pupils competing for four

prizes. They all spelled exceptionally well and at the end of the competition we were faced with a tie-break. Megan Jeffery and Tomos Turtle returned to the stage for a sudden-death spell-off! This was not the first time for Megan to have experienced a sudden-death round as she was involved in one that lasted 11 minutes in her Regional heat. Both had obviously been revising hard and knew the word list inside-out. After 15 minutes it was brought to an end when Tomos made a mistake – he was obviously bitterly disappointed but both pupils were brilliant spellers and there could only be one winner.

It was then extremely nerve-wracking for the four pupils in the German competition, but the audience seemed more nervous than they were as they spelled their words in turn and closed the day's competition with an equally high standard.

The prize-giving ceremony was a special part of the day as the prizes were presented by our VIP guests Andy Klom (European Commission), John Evans (European Commission) and Maria José Eguskiza (Conserjería de Educación). All of the medals and the champion cups were sponsored by the European Commission.

We would like to thank all who were involved in this competition and would also like to wish a huge CONGRATULATIONS to you all on your success.

Spelling Bee Winners 2011

French

- 1st Lewis Waters,
Bassaeg School
- 2nd Megan Jeffery,
Bassaeg School
- 3rd Tomos Turtle,
Ysgol Botwnnog
- 4th Lois Aled,
Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

German

- 1st Grace Eickmann,
Ysgol David Hughes
- 2nd Joel Patton,
Ysgol Bryn Elian
- 3rd Rhys Davies,
Ysgol David Hughes
- 4th Mathew O'Hanlon-Elms,
Ysgol David Hughes

Spanish

- 1st Dan Mallett,
The Cathedral School
- 2nd John Zhu,
The Cathedral School

Welsh 2nd Language

- 1st Taylor Hichly,
Barry Comprehensive
- 2nd William Howells,
Barry Comprehensive
- 3rd Kyle Bates,
Barry Comprehensive
- 4th Lewis Downey,
Barry Comprehensive



Routes Cymru Spelling Bee Champions 2011



All 18 finalists enjoyed the National Final at National Museum Cardiff

All photographs from the competition can be seen on the Routes into Languages Flickr page.

The competition will be running again next year. All details of the 2012 competition will be put on the website and publicity will be sent to schools with a view to launch the competition on the European Day of Languages in September 2011.

Language lessons for TOP pupils

In July postgraduate students of different nationalities hosted sessions in the School of Modern Languages at Bangor University for schools participating in the Talent Opportunities Programme. Nine groups of pupils from eight schools were given an opportunity to learn about studying languages at university level, and to take part in a variety of activities aimed at testing pupils' language knowledge, drawing their attention to lots of interesting language facts, and

giving them an opportunity to develop new language skills. Pupils competed at Who wants to be a millionaire?, learned to count in a new language, and put their new skills to the test in lively rounds of bingo. The ever popular Routes into Languages Cymru useful phrases postcards were keenly sought after prizes, and as they left to go to their next session the corridors echoed to the sound of pupils practising their new language skills.

Sixth form language workshop

Included in the programme for sixth form conferences at Bangor University at the end of June was a modern languages and careers workshop run by Routes into Languages Cymru.

The conferences offered Year 12 students from schools in north Wales an opportunity to learn about aspects of university life, the UCAS application process, and the options open to those embarking on higher education in the near future.

The interactive MFL session enabled participants to focus upon the transferable and personal skills that students develop when studying foreign languages, and offered an opportunity to consider and discuss the range of experiences and opportunities that are open to language students.

The final part of the session looked at the study options available to language undergraduates, and the wide array of careers - some more obvious than others! - they might consider in the future.

News from around the world – calling all Language learners!

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, we have decided to create a giant sized multi-lingual newspaper. We need your help to do it!

To contribute, all you need to do is write an article, review, horoscope, interview, comic strip or anything else that you might find in a newspaper. The only condition is that it needs to be in a different language to the one you speak at home. Please tell us at the end of your article your name, your age, your school and what language you speak at home.

The newspaper will be placed on display at our Family Fun Day celebration at the Wales Millennium Centre on Saturday, 24th September 2011, 10am-1.30pm.

All pieces should be sent to: EDL Newspaper, CILT Cymru, 245 Western Avenue, Cardiff CF5 2YX.

Closing date for entries: Friday, 16th September 2011.

Join us and the rest of Europe to celebrate languages!

¿Habla español?

Spanish students, who are currently spending time at Bangor University as part of the Erasmus programme, were recently involved in activities organised by schools in Anglesey as part of the 20 hour Welsh Bacalaureate languages module. These activities included developing and practising language skills, oral work and role-play, as well as participating in cultural activities such as salsa dancing, food tasting, Spanish art, and film. Response from all concerned - teachers, students and pupils alike - was extremely positive, and a good time was obviously had by all. ¡Adelante!

Film resources

We are pleased to announce that the Routes into Languages Cymru website now includes links to a wealth of film-related resources including downloadable/printable film vocabulary lists in French, German and Spanish.

The links also include general resources or references, as well as study guides and other downloadable resources dealing specifically with films included in the WJEC GCE A level modern languages specifications. All links are live at the time of going to press. To access the resources visit www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru and click on the 'Resources' tab.

Forthcoming events

European Day of Languages Family Fun Day

- Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
Saturday, 24th September 2011
10am – 1.30pm

Opening Doors: Languages in Wales and the World

- Swansea University
Date to be confirmed
- Cardiff University
Friday 21st October 2011

We will also be attending Careers Fairs around the country.

For further information about these events and for details about registration, please visit our website www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru