

A message from our Director

I am delighted that HEFCW has agreed to fund the 'Routes Cymru' project for a fourth year and that we are therefore able to deliver a host of exciting initiatives for schoolchildren, students, teachers and lecturers during the 2012-13 academic year. We shall be focusing on embedding activities within HE and school curricula and annual plans so that the project will have a legacy even if no further funding is available beyond July 2013.

There is now a real sense of purpose and community amongst the HEIs

and schools involved in the 'Routes Cymru' project. HEIs are interacting and communicating better than ever before in pursuit of a common goal, whilst schoolchildren are gaining a much clearer impression of what it entails to be an undergraduate studying MFL at a Welsh university. I should like to pay tribute to our loyal and enthusiastic band of Student Language Ambassadors, who, I am sure, will continue to make a major contribution to the project's success during Year 4.



If you would like an SLA to visit your school, please contact:

- ★ Bangor University and Aberystwyth University – Siân Beidas, sian.beidas@bangor.ac.uk
- ★ Swansea University, Cardiff University, University of Glamorgan and Cardiff Metropolitan University – Ani Saunders, ani.saunders@ciltcymru.org.uk

Ambassadors trained and ready for work

This year's national Student Language Ambassador (SLA) training took place in Cardiff on Saturday, 3 November 2012. Students from Bangor, Aberystwyth, Swansea, Cardiff and Cardiff Metropolitan Universities joined together for an intensive, yet enjoyable day, taking part in activities that equipped them to become confident ambassadors for languages.

A very popular part of the day was the Employability Panel. This comprised a group of professionals who all use languages in their roles. On the panel was Roy Allkin and Emma Hughes of Wolfestone Translation, Nathalie Defrance of TATA Steel, Kelly Black of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School and John Evans of the European Commission. They all shared their language journeys and spoke about how languages are important in their companies. Their messages encouraged the students to think

about their own futures as well as giving them interesting case studies to share with school pupils.

The afternoon sessions gave the students the opportunity to pick up some skills in some practical sessions. They looked at ways to motivate young learners with games and IT, they learned how to give a clear presentation having focussed on voice production and they heard from our current SLAs about the different ways in which they can be involved with the Routes Cymru project.



Student Language Ambassadors from Aberystwyth University

The students left the training feeling enthused and inspired and made comments such as "it was an eye opener as to what is possible with languages".

Abuelita, abuelita...

Have you ever wondered what a popular tale would be like if each character spoke a different language? Would the different characters understand each other?

Just as in the real world, languages are so much more than just a tool of communication. In this adapted version of the classic Little Red Riding Hood, several languages are used to encourage pupils to practise the languages they already speak and to have a go at speaking and understanding something brand new. Routes Cymru has developed a wealth of resources to support this: a complete multilingual script starring six different characters; a video of the play made by native speakers of the various languages; an activity pack to accompany the video, and a version of the clip with silenced intervals so that the pupils can speak for a character and be part of the performance.

This resource is already available on our website, and will be launched this term in a school in North Wales by some of our ever-so-helpful Student Language Ambassadors.



Multi-lingual Little Red Riding Hood resources are available to download from our website

Meet the SLAs...

Name... Katie Rooke
University... University of Glamorgan
Course... Applied
**Language Studies (with
 Spanish and Professional
 Welsh)**

Why did you choose to become a Student Language Ambassador?

I chose to become an SLA simply because languages are my life. I deal with them academically as well as socially and they have helped spark an interest in me that I didn't know existed. The world of languages helped me to realise that little bit more about myself, and what kind of person I want to be. I'm very thankful for my course and the opportunities I have had as a result of it. Being an SLA means I can offer advice to others who are curious about learning a language and the journey it can take them on, as well as hopefully helping to allow them to find out that little bit more about themselves, as I did.

Describe the activities you have been involved in as a Routes Cymru SLA.

I have been lucky enough to have been involved in a wide range of exciting activities through Routes. I have gone into comprehensive schools, working with pupils in years 9 and 11, giving inspirational career talks, answering questions and showing them all my wonderful journey so far! I also make an effort to include a small 'language taster' section in my presentations and love to see the whole class getting involved!

Other events have been just as successful, such as the Eisteddfod Yr Urdd where we helped encourage and enthuse young children to use and play with languages as

they spent the day making bags and having a good time.

I have been to a number of exhibitions where I have represented Routes Cymru and my university, offering advice to prospective language students and even parents who were interested in where languages might take their children.



Katie Rooke, SLA from the University of Glamorgan

This is my third year working with Routes Cymru, and I was also fortunate enough to participate in the national training day, which aimed to prepare the new SLAs for the months ahead. It was great to share my experiences of Routes Cymru and lovely to meet new fellow language enthusiasts!

What do you feel are the positive benefits

for the school/college pupils you were working with?

The pupils are able to see someone, only 5 or so years older, who has actually achieved something using their language skills and had obviously enjoyed the whole experience. They are able to see that, while the world of work is often tough, there are opportunities to love what you do and become successful as a result. SLAs show a real life situation, not a textbook scenario and we are not an authority figure telling them to do it. An SLA was a pupil in the not-too-distant past with whom it is easy for them to relate.

Having an SLA present in a school/college is a very unthreatening way to promote the importance of languages and, from my experiences, the pupils all enjoy the talks and they made them think about the opportunities on offer to them if they have language skills.

Je voudrais une bouteille d'eau

A new set of language resources in French, Italian, German and Spanish have been developed and are now available for our North Wales based Foreign Language Assistants and Student Language Ambassadors to use in schools.

The games are based on the original design of the very successful language games created by Cardiff University Widening Access. The games were used last year in both the Cardiff and Bangor Wales, Europe and the World events, as well as during a Welsh Bacc. languages week at Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Bethesda. In all the cases the students had great fun, the classrooms were echoing foreign languages and laughter, and feedback was really good.

Schools in the North Wales area will now be able to experience these new activities. Alongside the extremely useful phrases postcards, Go Global board game and informative hand-outs and leaflets, the students will be able to go food shopping, try on a few clothes or even prepare a weather forecast for another country's television channel. And it is up to them whether they practise a language they may be learning at school, or challenge themselves by trying a new language. *Français? Italiano? Deutsch? Español?* Take your pick!



New resources have been developed and are ready for use