



PRESS RELEASE

Languages Project Wins European Award

Routes into Languages Cymru's buddy scheme has been awarded a prestigious European Language Label.

Adopt a Class is a scheme that links classes of pupils in secondary schools in Wales with university students whilst they are on their year abroad. The aim of *Adopt a Class* is to highlight the opportunities to study and work abroad and through this aims to encourage young people to continue with their language studies.

Many school pupils have been given the opportunity to take advantage of these special links with students from Cardiff, Bangor and Swansea universities. While the student is abroad, they keep in regular contact with the class by emailing, sending postcards and other resources in the target language. This contact with the country brings the language alive for the pupils and shows them the relevance of learning a language. It encourages the pupils to seriously consider a language as an option for KS4.

Ellie Jones, Project Manager of Routes Cymru said "Fewer pupils have the opportunity to go on trips abroad or take part in exchanges and so are missing out on the opportunity to experience the culture of the target language. *Adopt a class* aims to bridge the gap for pupils between Wales and other countries."

In May, the project team showcased this scheme to a European Language Label judge. Their work was supported by pupils at Barry Comprehensive School who are currently linked to Cardiff University students in France and Italy. Their enthusiasm towards *Adopt a Class* and towards how it has encouraged them to study foreign languages most certainly secured the award.

Adopt a Class is one of ten projects in the UK to receive this recognition. The team will be invited to a ceremony in London to receive the award on 26th September, the European Day of Languages.

ENDS

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Notes for editors:

1. For more details about the *Adopt a Class* scheme, visit <https://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru/activity/2243>
2. For more information about the European Language Label, visit http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/valuing_languages/european_language_label1.aspx
3. The Routes into Languages programme was developed by three organisations working in partnership: the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML), the HE Academy Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS) and CILT, the National Centre for Languages. The Routes into Languages programme is coordinated by a team at the University of Southampton, directed by Professor Michael Kelly. <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/>
4. Routes into Languages Cymru is a £750,000 project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).
5. Led by CILT Cymru in partnership with 11 universities across Wales, the specific aim of the Routes into Languages Cymru project is to increase the take up of languages from school to university. It encourages young people to have a positive attitude towards their language learning and promotes languages as an essential skill.
6. CILT Cymru is funded by the Welsh Government and is managed by WJEC.