



DIARY MARKER

OPENING DOORS: LANGUAGES IN WALES AND THE WORLD

- Event:** Opening Doors: Languages in Wales and the World
- Where:** Swansea University
- When:** Wednesday, 25th January 2012
- Contact:** Ellie Jones, Routes into Languages Cymru, 029 2026 5410
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LIFE AS A LANGUAGE UNDERGRADUATE

On Wednesday, 25th January 2012, Swansea University's Department of Languages, Translation and Media will open its doors to pupils from local secondary schools. The aim is to inform pupils in years 11 to 13 as well as their teachers and careers advisors about the varied opportunities to study Modern Languages at university and what they can do with their skills after graduation.

At this one day 'Opening Doors' conference, pupils will experience lectures and seminars and have the opportunity of working in the university's language laboratories. Throughout the event, they will hear key messages about the importance of developing foreign language skills which will be reinforced by the activities.

Business representative Scott Evans of Cassidian will deliver the opening address and show the pupils how knowing a language can enhance their career prospects. He will speak of his own experiences and give examples of real jobs, available locally, that require foreign language skills.

To close, delegates will hear from Swansea University undergraduates who have recently returned from their intercalary year in countries such as France, Germany, Spain, and Italy. They will share their stories and will highlight the transferrable skills they have acquired from working or studying abroad.

"This conference for GCSE and A level pupils is one of a number of ways that Swansea University is working with local teachers to boost interest and performance in modern foreign languages" said Professor Julian Preece, Department of Languages, Translation and Media. "As a bilingual nation Wales should be uniquely placed in the UK to produce young people capable of communicating with our nearest European neighbours in their own tongue, but sadly other pressures on school curricula mean that we do not make the most of this natural advantage. On 25 January, the fightback begins!"

ENDS

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Interviews with Ceri James, Director of Routes Cymru and Julian Preece, Professor of German and Swansea organiser of the conference are available on request from Ellie Jones.

Routes into Languages Cymru website: www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru

Event webpage: <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru/events/2565>

Notes for editors:

1. Opening Doors: Languages in Wales and the World will take place at Swansea University on Wednesday, 25th January 2012, 9.30am – 2.30pm.
2. This event is being organised by Routes into Languages Cymru and Swansea University.
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.