

# Welcome to Routes into Languages Cymru

We are pleased to present this first edition of the Routes into Languages Cymru newsletter.

The project was launched in February by Roger Carter of HEFCW at our first event, 'Wales, Europe & the World'. The launch was attended by Heather McGuinness, Routes into Languages Programme Manager as well as representatives from most of our partner HEIs. Mr Carter addressed 450 young people and expressed his delight to be involved in the project "...HEFCW was so pleased to put up the funding to enable CILT Cymru to work with our universities to engage with schools and colleges to enthuse and encourage people in Wales to study languages."

The project is being led by CILT Cymru and the small team is based at their offices in Cardiff Bay. We are:

- Ceri James, Project Director (part time)
- Ellie Jones, Project Manager (full time)
- Rhian Jones, Project Coordinator (full time)

We are one of the largest consortia in the Routes project working with 10 HEIs:

- Bangor University
- Glyndŵr University

- Aberystwyth University
- University of Wales Lampeter
- Swansea University
- Cardiff University
- UWIC
- Glamorgan University
- University of Wales Newport
- The Open University in Wales

Since October we have been working to establish links with our partners and together we are developing a programme of inspirational and informative activity across the country. We have identified key themes for the next three years which include Languages and Careers, Student Mobility and Languages at University to name just a few. Of course we aim to raise the profile of language learning amongst our young linguists, but we also hope to work with members of school senior management, parents and careers advisors in order to highlight the benefits of learning another language.

To keep up to date with our events, activities and news items, visit our website [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru). If you would like to be involved with Routes into Languages Cymru or have any ideas for future events or activities, please get in touch.

## Routes into Languages Cymru

Routes into Languages is a programme funded by Government and designed to encourage more young people to study languages at school and beyond, at university. We mainly work across the 11-19 age group.

The Higher Education Funding council for Wales agreed in 2009 to make £750,000 available over 3 years to enable collaboration between universities, CILT Cymru, schools and colleges to promote language learning. The Welsh consortium will operate in a similar way to the regional consortia operating since 2007 in the 9 regions of England. In this way, tried and tested activities that have worked well can be extended, and lessons learnt on the programme shared, to help the project to succeed.

Ten universities collaborate in Wales. The director, project manager and administrator are based in Cardiff at CILT Cymru. They are able to make use of excellent links and contacts, expertise and the student ambassadors who study at the partner universities. These students enthuse, lead activities and act as role models in language learning for young people across Wales.

We are delighted to welcome the Wales team onto the Routes into Languages programme. Their launch event at Cardiff City Hall on 9 February 2010 was a great occasion, and we look forward to hearing about other activities and projects across Wales.

**Heather McGuinness**, Routes into Languages programme manager  
February 2010

## Student Language Ambassadors



Sophie, Cat & Kate are just 3 members of our Student Language Ambassador team

Routes into Languages Cymru hopes to build upon the success of CILT Cymru's career talks and we believe that Student Language Ambassadors can help us do this. We have trained a team of enthusiastic language undergraduates to work with us, and with you, to help showcase not only the importance of continuing with your languages but also the fun that can be had.

Thanks to our links with the Universities in Wales, we have students from Bangor, Aberystwyth, Swansea, Cardiff and Glamorgan Universities. Between them they speak 8 different languages and they each have a unique experience to share with your pupils.

Vicki is a final year Spanish and TEFL student in Swansea University. She thinks you should continue with languages because... "it's interesting, it's fun and it gives you a world of opportunities. You will see life from a broader angle and be ready to leap in to the working world."

If you would like a Student Language Ambassador to visit your school to speak to your pupils about their experiences, please contact us:

**Tel: 029 2048 0137**

**Email: [routescymru@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:routescymru@ciltcymru.org.uk)**

## Wales, Europe & the World First stop, Cardiff

On Tuesday, 9 February 2010 Cardiff City Hall was taken over by 450 of South Wales' young linguists. Wales, Europe & the World was the event that attracted the 14-19 year olds to the city centre to learn all about opportunities available to young language learners in Wales across Europe and the wider world.

The day was opened by Cardiff Council Leader, Rodney Berman. He spoke of the importance of languages for young people today and how these skills will most certainly help them in the future. This message was reinforced by Roger Carter of HEFCW who was present to officially launch the Routes into Languages Cymru project. He said "you will find that the study of languages will open other doors for you, not just those leading to jobs. They can be your passports to a wider world, with all that exposure to foreign cultures and a sense of world citizenship offers." He then prompted the teenagers to make the most of these opportunities, "Have fun, enjoy the day, and do something about it when you leave today!!"

The Routes into Languages Cymru and CILT Cymru teams worked together with partners such as Cardiff Council and the European Commission to organise this day packed full of activities. Pupils had the chance to learn a bit of Mandarin Chinese, practise their French and German and hear stories about studying or working abroad with Erasmus and Leonardo. Some even released their Latin spirits with a session of salsa dancing. Other sessions included Tai Chi, Human Rights, Volunteering in Europe and Employability Skills. The event even welcomed a representative from the European Commission who had flown over from Brussels to speak about their work during this year 2010: European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

During the lunch break, pupils were encouraged to look around the exhibition where representatives from 18 organisations showcased how languages are important to them. Local businesses such as Schools into Europe and EADS showed how languages are essential for their businesses while Colleges and Universities gave details of the many ways of studying languages after leaving school.

### ...and we go on tour

Thanks to partnership work with the Europe Direct Centre in Llangollen and the brand new Second Language Learning Centre at Glyndŵr University, we were able to repeat the success of Cardiff when Wales, Europe & the World hit the road and travelled up to Wrexham. Glyndŵr University played host to the activities and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Michael Scott opened the day. 350 pupils from ten local schools attended this event. They had the opportunity to take part in many of the same workshops, but with exam time looming, we also gave AS and A Level pupils the opportunity to polish their spoken language skills with students from Glyndŵr and Bangor University.

### And there's more where that came from!

Both days have proved to be a huge success for all involved and received positive feedback from pupils, teachers and exhibition holders. 'Wales, Europe & the World' has been a fantastic way to launch Routes into Languages Cymru and show both North and South Wales what we are about. We will be running many more exciting and informative activities. We offer careers talks and visits from Student Language Ambassadors. We attend Careers Fairs and will be present all week at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Ceredigion. Keep an eye on our website for events in your area [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru).