

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear colleague,

Many people are feeling the pinch financially these days and quite rightly, public spending is being scrutinised as never before. We are therefore delighted that a ground-breaking partnership model has led to the extension of the Routes into Languages Cymru project for a fifth year. CILT Cymru's parent body WJEC has approved a substantial

investment in an extensive programme of Routes Cymru activity throughout Wales, with the aim of persuading greater numbers of school-leavers to study languages at university. This move has in turn been matched by HEFCW in recognition of the fact that MFL has been classified by the Welsh Government as a 'Subject of Broader Importance to Wales'. The new round of activities started on August 1st, 2013.

This bold partnership is a fillip to all those working to raise the level of MFL

competence in Wales, including improved employment prospects for those leaving full-time education at a time of high youth unemployment throughout Europe.

We look forward to working with HEIs, schools and colleges across Wales to improve the health of the 'supply chain' of linguists feeding into our universities.

Ceri James

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Director, Routes into Languages Cymru

German Film and Culture Day

Bangor University's School of Modern Languages, in collaboration with Routes into Languages Cymru recently organised a German Film and Culture Day attended by GCSE and A Level students and teachers from schools in north Wales.

The morning session consisted of workshops led by Dr Linda Short on the film *Good Bye Lenin*, one of the films included in the WJEC German A-level syllabus. This was an opportunity for the students, who had watched the film before coming to Bangor, to widen their understanding of the film and extend their German vocabulary.

The afternoon's cultural workshop, led by Dr Anna Saunders, examined the role of monuments in contemporary Germany, in particular those that relate to the Holocaust and to the GDR. Students then took part in an interactive workshop in which they examined a selection of case-studies, and designed their own monuments in remembrance of key events or personalities in recent German history. The final session of the day consisted of a presentation of their ideas by each of the groups.

Throughout the day, three Bangor University language students, Susie Turnbull, Emma Noakes, and Cristina Galisi, were available to assist with the workshops and talk about their experience of studying languages and visiting other countries.

Feedback about the event was very positive and both teachers and students acknowledged the standard and relevance of the workshops. They highlighted the fascinating topics and inspiring message. The event was described as 'interesting



Students design a monument with support from a SLA



Students present their ideas

and very useful'. All the participants expressed an interest in attending a similar event in future, as well as continuing to learn languages.

Photos from the event can be seen on our Flickr page:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/routesintolanguages/sets/72157634535434652/>

Excellence in Language Teaching Awards – Celebrations at National Conference

In March 2013 Routes into Languages Cymru launched the Excellence in Language Teaching Awards. The aim of these awards was not only to recognise the excellent practice of our MFL teachers in Wales but also to raise the profile of the profession.

A healthy number of nominations were received for the following categories:

- Most Promising Trainee MFL Teacher 2013
- Primary Modern Foreign Languages Teacher of the Year 2013
- Modern Foreign Languages Teacher of the Year 2013

Following a difficult process of shortlisting, the judges proceeded to visit the nominees in order to observe lessons and to speak to colleagues and most importantly, pupils.

The quality of the teaching that was displayed and the glowing endorsements that were received from pupils made it very difficult for the judges to choose their winners. As a result it was decided to introduce a new 'Highly Commended' category.

The winners were announced at CILT Cymru's annual conference:

Most Promising Trainee MFL Teacher 2013



Hollie Blurton

WINNER – Hollie Blurton, Ysgol Bryngwyn / Swansea Metropolitan University

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Clotilde Leseur, West Monmouth School / Cardiff Metropolitan University

Primary Modern Foreign Languages Teacher of the Year 2013



Bruce McInnes

WINNER – Bruce McInnes, Coed Glas Primary School

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Bethan Williams, Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch

Modern Foreign Languages Teacher of the Year 2013



Nia Rowlands

WINNER – Nia Rowlands, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

HIGHLY COMMENDED – Helen Parry, Ysgol Uwchradd Glan Clwyd

The award ceremony was a wonderful celebration in which the conference delegates enjoyed video clips of the winners' language lessons and messages of endorsement from their pupils.

These awards will become an annual celebration so that the language teaching community in Wales can continue to receive recognition for its excellent work. Information about how to nominate for the Excellence in Language Teaching Awards 2014 will be posted on the Routes into Languages Cymru website soon.

Super Spelling at National Final

The National Final of the Routes into Languages Cymru Spelling Bee Competition 2013 was held at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth on 19th July. It was a fantastic event at which the top 25 multi-lingual spellers came together to compete for the prizes in French, German, Spanish and Welsh 2nd Language.

The Judges had been absolutely amazed by the standard at the two regional finals in April, and the competitors had obviously also been inspired to practise very hard as the standard seemed even higher at this national final.

Each Year 7 pupil took to the stage in the presence of their fellow competitors, supporters, teachers and our VIP guests: Mr David Hughes, Head of the European Commission Office in Wales; Cllr Mrs Wendy Morris-Twiddy, Mayoress of Aberystwyth; and Natalio Ormeño Villajos of the Spanish Consejería de Educación. Nerves did not seem to affect any one of them as they confidently and clearly spelled at very high speed.

After tie-break situations in both the Spanish and French competitions, the Judges were happy to crown the following winners:

SPANISH

National Champion 2013

Tomos Boyles **The Cathedral School**

2nd Caitlan Wright Howell's School

3rd Marnie Boswall Howell's School

GERMAN

National Champion 2013

Tanjila Islam **Whitchurch High School**

2nd Libby Sunderland St Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School

3rd Louise Sadler Howell's School

FRENCH

National Champion 2013

Leah Jones **Ysgol Tryfan**

2nd Jack Tweddle Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

3rd Siwan Huw Ysgol Tryfan

WELSH 2ND LANGUAGE

National Champion 2013

Grace Davies **Howell's School**

2nd Elizabeth Morgan Ysgol Aberconwy

3rd Lewis Morrin St David's High School

Congratulations to you all!



Routes Cymru Spelling Bee competitors 2013

We would like to say thank you to all of the competitors who have taken part throughout the year and also to their teachers and former Spelling Bee competitors, many of whom took on a training role this year, for supporting the competition.

This year's Spelling Bee will launch on the European Day of Languages. Keep a look out for more information on our website and also for the brand new resources developed by WJEC that will support the competition.



Routes Cymru Spelling Bee champions 2013

Success in the Mother Tongue Other Tongue Poetry Competition

We were absolutely delighted to receive so many entries for the Routes Cymru section of the Mother Tongue Other Tongue poetry competition. Young people from all over the country showed us amazing creativity in both their home language and languages being learned at school.

The Mother Tongue entries were judged by staff at Cardiff University and the Other Tongue poems by staff at CILT Cymru. The winners were as follows (see tables on right):

The winning poems were exhibited on the Routes Cymru stand at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod where they were appreciated by hundreds of visitors. The exhibition subsequently moved to Cardiff University's School of European Languages, Translation and Politics.

Manchester Metropolitan University, who devised this competition, will be holding a national celebration event in November at which our winners will be invited to participate.

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MOTHER TONGUE

Years 7-9	Isabel Libut St Joseph's Catholic & Anglican High School	
Years 10-11	Barbora Kandouroua Cathays High School	

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OTHER TONGUE

Years 5-6	Kaya Jones	Ysgol Bro Eirwg
Years 7-9	Samuel Brookes	The Cathedral School
Years 10-11	Ermine Geoghan	Ruthin School



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News from Barry Comprehensive School

Mother Tongue Other Tongue Workshop

Cardiff University MA Student supports the competition at Barry Comprehensive School

On the 24th of May, an Italian student from Cardiff University (Tatiana Bartalucci) came to our school to carry out a workshop with Year 9 pupils. The workshop consisted of multiple interactive activities covering various topics from Sport to Food. We also played games to help us revise the tenses. Our Italian assistant (Bianca) also helped us with the words that we may not have learnt before, improving our vocabulary. We thoroughly enjoyed working alongside Tatiana, and we hope that she shall return here again.



Tatiana works with pupils from Barry Comprehensive School

Adopt a Class visit in Barry

On Monday, 1st July, Becky Williams from Cardiff University came to Barry Comprehensive School to talk to some Year 9 students about her year abroad. She studied French for six months in Geneva and then Italian for a further six months in Venice. Before leaving Wales the Year 9 pupils had set her some interesting challenges. She managed to complete most of them and she enjoyed trying out the specialities of the two countries.

Becky had prepared a presentation about her year abroad and showed photos of the main attractions. The pupils asked her questions. She enjoyed her year abroad as she made lots of friends and was able to become fluent in both languages.



Becky with her adopted class at Barry Comprehensive School

Wales, Europe & the World fair held at Bangor

Bangor University recently hosted the Routes into Languages Cymru Wales, Europe & the World fair and exhibition for nearly 150 pupils who have embarked, or were about to embark on Welsh Baccalaureate courses in schools in north Wales. The aims of Wales, Europe & the World were to help pupils find out more about working, studying and travelling in Europe and beyond, and learn how speaking another language can enable them to get the most out of the experience.

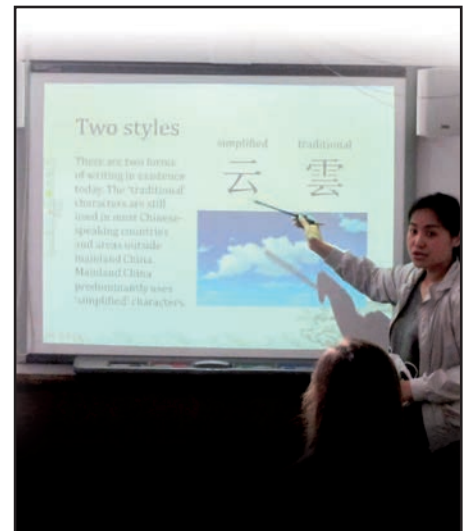
taster session) and Maria Cristina Seccia (Italian taster session).

A team of Bangor SML students ran the language games workshop, and the smooth running of the event was supported by a team of Bangor student stewards. Full support was also received from CILT Cymru, Bangor University Careers and Employability Service and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

Who loves languages?



Learning languages through dance



The Confucius Institute provided language sessions

Following the inspiring opening address by the Head of the School of Modern Languages (SML), Dr Anna Saunders, the pupils attended a range of workshops and information sessions featuring games, dance, careers, language tasters and useful information about studying and working in Wales or abroad. This varied selection was offered by Signature Leather, Goethe Institut, Bangor University School of Law Confucius Institute, Europe Direct Wrexham and Llangollen, North Wales Deaf Association, as well as Bangor University staff and students: Dr Jonathan Ervine (Euroquiz), Susie Turnbull (her experience abroad), Mattia Marino (multilingual Nameless Dance), Stefanie Kreibich (German taster session), Nestor Vinas-Guasch (Spanish

Feedback following the event, from both pupils and their teachers, was extremely positive. Every single workshop was acknowledged for its fun approach to languages, and its usefulness, and many of the pupils said that they would have liked the opportunity to attend more and longer workshops and would certainly attend a similar event in future. Pupils had clearly been inspired and at the end of the day 93% of them said that they would like either to continue to study or to learn one or more foreign languages.

Photos from the event can be seen on our Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/routesintolanguages/sets/72157634528940171/>



Language games