**LEADING THE WAY FOR LANGUAGES IN WALES**

***Routes Cymru secure funding from Welsh Universities***

Routes into Languages Cymru, now entering its sixth year, is an innovative award-winning project tasked with raising the take-up of modern foreign languages (MFL) and promoting international student mobility. Working closely with secondary schools, further education colleges and universities in Wales, Routes Cymru aims to bridge the gap between secondary and higher education by supporting events, competitions and workshops, as well as creating inspiring resources and partnerships between students, teachers, academics and educational professionals.

After securing four years of funding by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) in 2009 and a further year of funding by both HEFCW and WJEC, it was confirmed in 2013 that no further financial support could be provided. However, following investment from leading Universities in Wales, Routes into Languages Cymru is delighted to confirm that the project will continue for another year with funding and support from Cardiff University, Bangor University, Aberystwyth University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, WJEC and in partnership with CILT Cymru.

*‘The new Routes Cymru project will be building upon the great work of the previous five years and developing initiatives designed to energise and motivate students, teachers and educational professionals, both within and beyond the classroom’*, said Professor Claire Gorrara, Head of the School of Modern Languages at Cardiff University and Academic Director of Routes Cymru. *‘With Modern Languages facing an uncertain future in Wales, the commitment of Welsh universities and their partners to this project is testament to the value of modern languages as a means to develop a more internationally mobile and culturally informed workforce supporting Welsh economic growth’*

**ENDS**

 **Routes into Languages Cymru**: Ani Saunders, Routes Cymru Project Manager and Coordinator, email: ani.saunders@ciltcymru.org.uk, tel: 029 2026 5408

**Interviews** with Professor Claire Gorrara, Academic Director of Routes Cymru, are available on request from Ani Saunders.

**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

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 in England is coordinated by a team at the University of Southampton, directed by Professor Michael Kelly. <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/>

Routes into Languages Cymru is funded by Cardiff University, Bangor University, Aberystwyth University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and WJEC.

Working in partnership with CILT Cymru and the four Welsh universities, as well as a range of stakeholders, the aim of the Routes into Languages Cymru project is to increase the take up of languages from school to university and to increase international student mobility. It encourages young people to have a positive attitude towards their language learning and promotes modern languages as an essential skill.

CILT Cymru is funded by the Welsh Government and is managed by WJEC.