

INNOVATIVE SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGES IN WALES

Routes Cymru secure additional funding for 2015-2016

Routes into Languages Cymru, now entering its seventh 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.

Last year saw four Universities in Wales (Cardiff, Bangor, Aberystwyth and Cardiff Metropolitan) offering financial support to ensure that Routes Cymru activities delivered to partners and stakeholders across Wales could continue. Following a year of successful work with a positive impact, these universities have now been joined by British Council Wales and the European Commission Office in Wales who have also committed funds to support the important role of Routes Cymru.

This announcement follows the recent launch of the Welsh Government's vision for Global Futures – a strategy to support modern languages in schools in Wales. Routes Cymru are committed to working with Welsh Government and the nominated HUB schools across the Regional Consortia to align activities with this strategy in order to provide the best support for teachers and learners of modern languages as possible.

Professor Claire Gorrara, Academic Lead of Routes into Languages Cymru said *"The continued funding for Routes into Languages Cymru from its Welsh HE partners, the British Council Wales and the European Commission in Wales is testament to the breadth, depth and significance of its work in support of modern languages in the educational sector - from primary school to universities. Increasing student engagement with modern languages is needed now more than ever in order to equip our young Welsh people with the skills and confidence to work in a fast-developing multi-lingual and multicultural world"*.

ENDS

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Interviews with Professor Claire Gorrara, Academic Director of Routes Cymru, are available on request from Ellie Jones.



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, British Council Wales and the European Commission Office in Wales.

Routes into Languages Cymru is managed by WJEC.

