



Happy New Year!

We hope you had a relaxing Christmas break and are now looking forward to the Spring term ahead.

Last term began with our European Day of Languages Poster competition for students in years 7-9. It proved as popular as ever with West Midlands schools and we even received entries from schools outside of the region. Our winning entry for 2017 can be seen on page 2.



This term sees the German, Spanish and French cultural events for year 8 and 9 students; the German event will be the first to take place on Wednesday 24 January 2018.

Students can expect to have lots of fun this year with some new interactive activities as part of the afternoon's workshops!

We have a new and exciting competition for your KS4 and 5 students this term to get them thinking about how they can promote studying languages at GCSE level and beyond to younger students. Find out more on page 2.



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European Day of Languages Poster Competition 2017

Our European Day of Languages Poster Competition was really popular with schools last term and we received lots of fantastic posters from your students, so thank you to everyone who took part!

Our winner for 2017 was Freya Gee, a Year 7 student from Walton High School with her poster featuring England and Toulon rugby player Jonny Wilkinson.

Many congratulations to Freya and our two runners up Linus Hercules, Y7, Royal Grammar School Worcester and Sarah Pooler Beijing, Y9, William Brookes School. All three posters are currently being displayed in the School of Languages and Social Sciences at Aston University.



Careers in Translation and Interpreting Conference 2017

On Wednesday 15 November we welcomed more than 80 school and undergraduate students to our Careers in Translation and Interpreting Conference held at Aston University.

Students heard from employers, alumni and current translation students about becoming a translator or interpreter and the many exciting job opportunities in the translation and interpreting industry.

During an exhibition and networking session participants also had the opportunity to spend time talking to the speakers and other industry representatives in a more relaxed environment on a one to one basis.

Ambassador Visits

Our fantastic Routes ambassadors have already been out and about in schools during the autumn term and will be continuing their visits to schools during the spring term 2018. Depending on your requirements they can deliver a "Why Study Languages Presentation" to your students, help out with a languages event in school or come in to school to help with exam preparation.

Visits are charged at £75 per ambassador per half day; if you would like to book an ambassador visit to your school, please email routes@aston.ac.uk



Foreign Language Christmas Card Competition 2017

Congratulations to Holly Jackson a year 8 student from Alsager School in Stoke-on-Trent who was the Winner of our Foreign Language Christmas Card competition 2017!

Many thanks to all of the students who took part in the competition for their fantastic entries and to the teachers for sending them in! The judges really enjoyed looking at all of the beautifully designed cards and commented on the high standard of language used.

New Competition for KS4 and 5 students

How can we encourage and enthuse more students to study languages at GCSE level and beyond?

In order to get your KS4 and 5 students thinking about this, we would like them to design a three hour event for students in years 7 to 9 to illustrate the benefits of learning a foreign language.

They can use interactive activities as well as classroom time to put their ideas across to the students.

Prizes will be awarded for the best event!

More details and rules of this exciting competition will be available on our [website](#) very soon!

Boost Language Attainment with a Modern Language Assistant



Modern Language Assistants (MLAs) bring authentic language and culture to the classroom. In a recent survey of host schools, heads

of modern languages reported improved exam results, raised standards in under-performing students and assistants motivating talented students to achieve more. The support of an assistant is particularly valuable as teachers prepare students for the new exams in England; continue to work with the 1+2 initiative in Scotland; support the Global Futures Bilingual + 1 strategy in Wales and encourage native-level Irish in Northern Ireland.

The British Council Language Assistants programme draws on 100+ years of experience with overseas education authorities to provide a trusted, high-quality service.

Applications are now open/will open soon! For more information see our website [here](#), or email the team on

languageassistants.uk@britishcouncil.org

Events and activities in the Spring Term 2018

January

KS4 and KS5 Promoting Language Learning Competition

German Cultural Day—Deutsch International!

February

KS4 and KS5 Promoting Language Learning Competition

Student Language Ambassador Visits

Spanish Cultural Event - ¡Fiesta Hispánica!

March

Student Language Ambassador Visits

French Cultural Event—Journée de la francophonie!

For more details of all events please see our website [Routes into Languages](#)

Ask the Ambassador

Each term one or more of our ambassadors will answer questions from your students. This term it's the turn of Hannah Pitt a final year student ambassador and Julia Shipley, an ambassador who is studying for an MA.

Q. "I don't want to do languages beyond GCSE because I want to be a doctor/lawyer, is it still worth doing a GCSE in an MFL?"

Julia—Having even a GCSE understanding of a language can be really beneficial for your future studies in whatever subject because the skills and confidence you gain from studying a second language will transfer into being a lawyer/doctor/etc.

Q. "What opportunities have you had because of studying languages?"

Hannah—The biggest opportunity for me was definitely my placement year in Germany. It was definitely the best year of my life and I got so much out of it. I travelled around Germany and its neighbouring countries, met wonderful people, experienced the German culture and its traditions, such as Karneval and I also had the chance to use and improve my German every single day.

Q. "Have you improved a lot in speaking due to the lectures being carried out in the target language?"

Julia—Yes! If the lecture is in your second language, it forces you to practice vocabulary that is outside of your comfort zone. At first it seems difficult or that you are missing information, but as the class continues it becomes normal.

Q. "What advice would you give to someone if they wanted to do a language course?"

Hannah—Be prepared to make mistakes when using the language and to learn from them. Don't let the fact that you aren't 100% fluent/confident with using a certain form make you nervous. In foreign language learning you have to make mistakes to reach the higher levels.

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