

Welcome to our Easter newsletter, brimming with linguistic and cultural events from our Glasgow schools, including:

- ♦ [Interdisciplinary Projects](#) at Celtic Learning Centre
 - ♦ [Eurozone Crisis](#) IP at Bellahouston Academy
 - ♦ [Louis Pasteur](#)— languages / science project
 - ♦ [Euroquiz 2014](#) in Thornwood Primary
 - ♦ Bannerman High's [Chinese events](#)
 - ♦ [British Academy's Languages Awards 2014](#)
 - ♦ [Italian events](#) in St. Charles' Primary
 - ♦ [Euroscola Civic Reception](#)
 - ♦ All Saints Secondary
 - ♦ [Mardi Gras](#)
 - ♦ [Careers Fair](#)
 - ♦ [Widening Access](#) event at Café Beaumartin
- [Notices](#), useful links for resources and congratulations.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy Easter / Spring break and look forward to collaborating with you in the summer term.

As usual, we hope you will enjoy the variety and quality of activities offered throughout our city schools and please send us details of your own interesting events and projects.

Click on the blue hyperlinks throughout the newsletter for easy navigation!

Modern Languages Newsletter— Spring 2014



On Monday 27th January 2014 an eclectic group of 9 students met at Celtic Learning Centre to deliver presentations of their Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Projects (IP) to a selected audience.

Springburn Academy	Joanne Martin	A comparison of heart disease rates in Scotland and France and government approaches to tackling this
Springburn Academy	Callum Forrester	Investigating the differences between policies targeting poverty in both Scotland and France and their effectiveness
Bellahouston Academy	Casey Morrison	Promoting French cuisine in Scotland and Raising awareness of Scottish cuisine in France
Bellahouston Academy	Paul Black	
Shawlands Academy	Zaema Majid	A study of the importance of language in multilingual family life and the effect on the individual in terms of their inclination or lack of inclination towards studying languages.
Holyrood Secondary	Lorna Spada	Is Scotland becoming a cultural desert when it comes to language learning?
Holyrood Secondary	Mairi Maclean	What's stopping Modern Languages' charm from crossing the Channel?
All Saints Secondary	Robyn Reilly-Collins	Whether music can be used as a useful vehicle to encourage children to learn a foreign language?
All Saints Secondary	Callum MacAulay	How does previous language learning impact on the language learning experience for beginner's Spanish?

The invited audience included representatives from the Franco-Scottish Society; Institut Français; SQA; Dalmarnock Primary; Holyrood Secondary; Bellahouston Academy; All Saints Secondary; Springburn Academy and the ML Support & Development Team. The group also included 4 native-French speakers.

8 candidates offered a variety of projects involving French; Italian and Spanish, while 1 candidate discussed a scientific theme.

[More](#)

[Return to list of features](#)

Modern Languages Newsletter— Spring 2014

The lively discussions addressed topical issues, including:

- Positive and negative aspects of Scottish and French diets, including associated problems – heart disease; obesity; taste; presentation
- Poverty, deprivation and the minimum wage
- Multilingualism; Erasmus+ (new European funding); EU Parliament; immigration; assimilation and integration
- Immersion classes (1+2)
- Teaching Primary languages – using songs; comparing different methodologies in other subjects
- Teaching as a career.



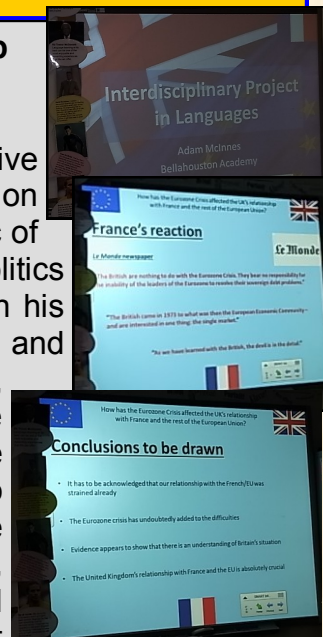
The candidates all spoke passionately, fielding questions willingly after their talks (some even answered questions in French and Italian), provoking lively debates.

We would like to thank all participants (candidates and audience) for their contribution to this successful event.



How has the Eurozone Crisis affected the UK's relationship with France and the rest of the European Union?

Adam McInnes (Bellahouston Academy) delivered his impressive IP presentation to a selected audience of teachers and guests on Tuesday 24/2/14. Adam immediately informed us that the topic of his IP was inspired by his intention to study economics and politics next year at university. He had used a variety of resources in his research (in English and French) and presented both factual and graphical data. Though unable to attend the Euroscola event, resourcefully, Adam asked another participant to ask some questions for him during the visit. He even managed to engage an MP (Douglas Alexander) and an MEP (George Lyon) to help him overtake his aims. Both politicians were asked the same 5 questions and Adam skilfully analysed their responses, appreciating that their opinions depended largely upon political allegiance. In conclusion, Adam recognises the disagreement between political leaders, but believes that the UK's relationship with France and Europe is crucial, though often portrayed in a poor light by the media. Furthermore, Adam is clearly aware of how the IP has enhanced his own skills development – independent research; conducting interviews; emailing politicians – and has docu-



Louis Pasteur

Summary of His Life Key Facts:

Born: 1822, Dole, France

Pasteur showed that airborne microbes were the cause of disease.

His research paved the way for modern day microbiology

Most famous the experiments he carried out to disprove the theory of spontaneous generation

Pasteurized milk was named after him as he came up with the idea of airborne microbes attacking food.

Died: 1895: age 73

What we did:

We arrived at the Science Centre and were greeted by French speaking actors.

We were grouped into doctors, surgeons and farmers and shepherds.

We then learned how Pasteur's work affected each of those professions.

We then followed in Pasteur's footsteps and did the same experiment as he did all those years ago.

After this, we all finally realised that this man really was a hero and, without his work, medicine would not be so advanced.

We then acted out some of his most iconic moments of science.

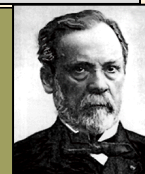
At the end of the day we learned that he worked with Joseph Lister (a British national) who had to speak French or he would not have been able to work with Louis.

This made my classmates and I realise the importance of being bilingual.

We had a very good time and would do it again in a heartbeat.

Overall the day ended in smiles all around!

Star rating: ****



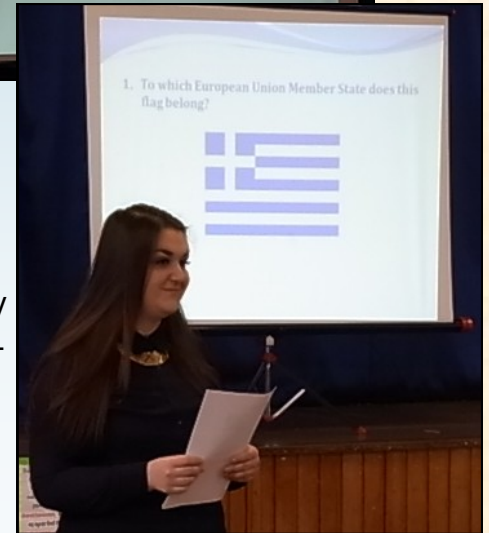


Euroquiz 2014

This prestigious event was organised by the International Education Office (Glasgow City Council) and the Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET) and kindly hosted by Thornwood Primary. Glasgow City Council was represented this year by 15 primaries, including:

Carntyne; Holy Cross; Kelvindale; Notre Dame; Royston; Scotstoun; St. Charles; St. Mirin's; St. Mungo's; St. Albert's; St. Brigid's; St. Paul's (Whiteinch); Thornwood; Wallacewell; Wellshot, with Kelvinside Academy Junior School representing the independent sector .

Madeleine (our quiz mistress from SEET) delivered a variety of challenging questions on diverse European topics, including: Geography; History, Culture and Sport; the European Union. Some of the questions were in French, German and Spanish to impress upon our young people the importance of languages in our globalised society.



After 4 rounds the top 2 teams— Holy Cross Primary and Kelvinside Academy Junior School –battled out the deciding round on general knowledge of Europe. Holy Cross eventually won by 1 point in a dramatic, nail-biting finish. This was especially heartening for one of the team who had withdrawn from a visit to Paris to participate. The winners will now participate in the national event at the Scottish Parliament in May. There were prizes for the winners and 2nd and 3rd place (St. Mirin's) runners up.



All participants received a certificate at the end of this enjoyable afternoon and we are already looking forward to next year's competition.

[Return to list of features](#)

[More](#)

Modern Languages Newsletter— Spring 2014



We would like to offer special thanks to everyone who helped organise the Glasgow heat, including: Shelagh Reid (International Education Office)
Val McCaffery (Thornwood Primary)
Stuart Coll (Graphics; Glasgow City Council)
Julie Lorang (Comenius Assistant from Luxemburg seconded to St. Brigid's)
Jonas Borchgraeve (Julie's fiancé from Belgium) *(Paul Middleton)*



[Return to list of features](#)

Glasgow pupil Jamie Lindsay is heading to China to continue his studies

Chinese Mandarin was introduced into Bannerman High School, Glasgow, two years ago. Learning Chinese is becoming very popular in the school and more and more youngsters are excited at taking up this fascinating subject.

One pupil, Jamie Lindsay, who already has straight As in Maths, Chemistry, Physics and computing is heading to China next year to study Mandarin.

He is one of only twelve pupils in Scotland to win a scholarship to study Mandarin full time in one of the best Chinese Universities after his successful interview with the Confucius institute based in the University of Strathclyde.

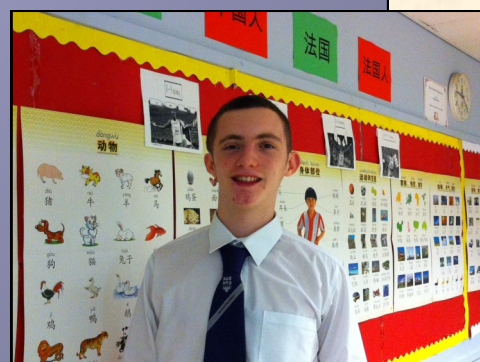
Jamie only started Mandarin in September and will sit his intermediate exam next May before heading to Tian Jin University (outside Beijing) in August.



He sees language, especially Mandarin as the key to a successful career, observing: *'I believe that studying in China is a once in a lifetime opportunity that would enhance my understanding of different cultures around the world, while giving me greater appreciation of the Eastern way of life. I hope to become an Aeronautical Engineer who can travel the world and interact with many international clients. Being able to study Mandarin and the Chinese culture would provide many advantages in my career as I would have the possibility to work in many different countries with the benefit of being able to speak the world's most spoken language.'*

His Mandarin teacher, Ms Chang, is convinced he is going to do brilliantly in his Mandarin exam next year and he will continue to succeed while studying in China. There is a bright future ahead of him.

Headteacher, Ms Purdie, said, *'I am delighted for Jamie and for the school. It is wonderful to have a young person gain such a scholarship and I am delighted that this has happened so soon after our introduction of Mandarin into the curriculum.'*



On Wednesday 27 November, a group of Bannerman S5 and S6 pupils attended the second SCEN (Scotland China Education Network) China Youth Summit at the Gleneagles Hotel. 70 schools and organisations from across Scotland attended the Summit. It is very exciting to observe the number of people studying Chinese and encouraging existing links between Scotland and China. It was also very inspirational to hear about the amazing experience of different schools and pupils.

China projects and China trips. Three of our participants, Marcus McNab, Jamie Lindsay and Nicole Tsang delivered a speech at the event. Although very nerve-wracking, they stood in front of the audience of around 300 people and spoke about all the fun they had learning Chinese Mandarin. Their speech prompted very good feedback from the audience. In fact, the director of SCEN, Judith McClure, even sent her personal congratulation to three of them, praising the impact their speech on the Summit.

[More](#) 

[Return to list of features](#)

As Lord Wilson, former HK governor, described at the Summit: *'China project is like beautiful butterflies in our young people's future. It doesn't matter if some schools are still like caterpillars or cocoons; it is exciting to know that there are more and more beautiful butterflies coming.'*

David Cameron said on the last day of his visit in China: *'By the time the children born today leave school, China is set to be the world's largest economy. I want Britain linked up to the world's fast-growing economies. And that includes our young people learning the language (Mandarin Chinese) to seal tomorrow's business deals.'*



The SCEN Youth summit offered us a platform to exchange ideas and experiences. It is also a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to discover the important role China and Chinese language plays in various industries. It was truly an eye opening experience.

P.S The head chef even prepared an amazing banquet for all of us. We loved the food!

Many thanks to SCEN and the Gleneagles Hotel for this amazing experience!
Ms Chang, Bannerman High School



British Academy Schools Language Awards 2014 Win £4000 to get more of your students to aim higher!

As part of its programme to support and champion the learning of languages, the British Academy is again offering a series of Awards to schools and colleges throughout the UK for the encouragement of excellence in language learning. This year the Awards focus on activity which encourages more students to take language learning to a higher level.



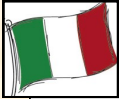
BRITISH ACADEMY
for the humanities and social sciences

The Awards are intended to encourage schools to find imaginative and effective ways of improving take up and enthusiasm for language learning into S5, S6 and beyond, and of addressing the social imbalance in the profile of language learners at higher levels. Projects which target learners from less advantaged social groups or areas of the country are particularly welcomed.

The Awards are open to all secondary schools and colleges and cover all languages other than English, including those learnt as community languages. A total of 15 Awards of £4000 each will be made to schools throughout the UK. At least one Award will go to a winning proposal from Scotland. Application is via a simple online form with a closing date of **30 June 2014**.

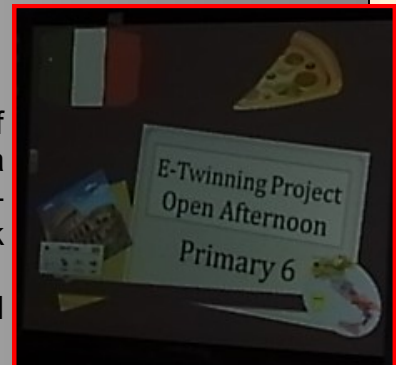
[Return to list of features](#)

Modern Languages Newsletter— Spring 2014

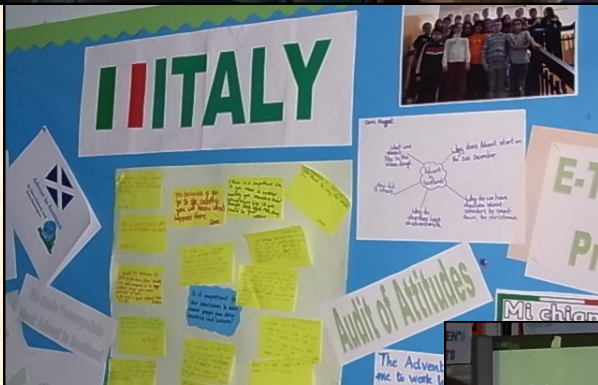


St. Charles Primary hosted an open afternoon on Tuesday 4th February 2014 to celebrate their recent very successful eTwinning partnership with a school in Rivoli (near Turin; another of Glasgow's twinned cities). The enjoyable event was attended by pupils, teachers, parents and invited guests.

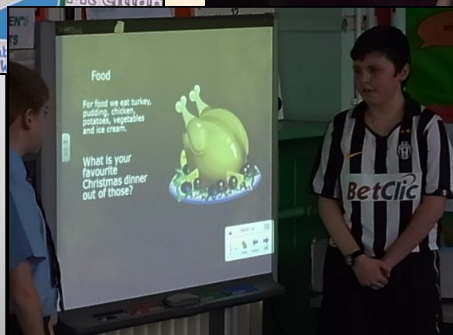
The children have just recently ventured into the realm of eTwinning and have been supported by Anne Jakins, a British Council eTwinning Ambassador, to help them navigate the Twin space (a special area for hosting their work and communicating with their partner). Both schools decided to develop the Nativity as a theme of mutual and relevant interest. The pupils presented their own presentations and their Italian partners'.



To enhance their enjoyment of the project, the pupils at St. Charles were offered a 40 minute Italian lesson over 4 weeks, delivered by Paul Middleton (Modern Languages Support & Development Team). They have made excellent progress linguistically and culturally and are hoping to develop another project with a new Italian school in the near future.



Well done to Mrs MacCormack for organising these initiatives and encouraging the pupils to engage with foreign languages and cultures to such a high standard!



[Return to list of features](#)

On Tuesday 25/2/14 a civic reception was held in Glasgow City Chambers (Picture Gallery) in honour of the 28 participants who attended the Euroscola event in November 2013 (see Xmas newsletter). 13 secondary schools were represented (8 from Glasgow; 4 from East Dunbartonshire and 1 from South Ayrshire).

Baillie Phil Greene gave the opening address and spoke about the importance of visits abroad and his own experience of visiting Strasbourg and the surrounding area. This was followed by a comprehensive address in French by Mrs Maureen McKenna, Executive Director of Service Education, reinforcing the importance of languages as a lifelong skill. Though Maureen is a graduate of Maths, she studied French for a year at university and clearly values languages as a transferable, asset. Kyle Thornton, an ex-pupil of Bellahouston Academy now studying East European Studies at university, spoke about how his recent experience at Euroscola helped him grow in confidence politically, linguistically and culturally. Chanella Keza finished off the speeches with a vote of thanks in French to all who contributed to make the visit another great success. The participants were each issued with a certificate to celebrate their participation in this unique event.



The evening finished with the guests and participants enjoying lively discussions and refreshments.



Mardi Gras in **All Saints Secondary** – on Pancake Tuesday all S1 pupils took part in an IDL project with Modern Languages, Music and Art.

Pupils were involved in finding out all about different mardi gras traditions all over the world and had the chance to look at the art and music involved as well the language in Francophone and Hispanic countries. S1 pupils made their own Mardi Gras masks and took part in a parade with the school samba band!

The Ladies from the Modern Languages Department spent the day in their Mardi Gras masks too and provided breakfast for staff and crêpes at break!

[Photos](#)

[Return to list of features](#)



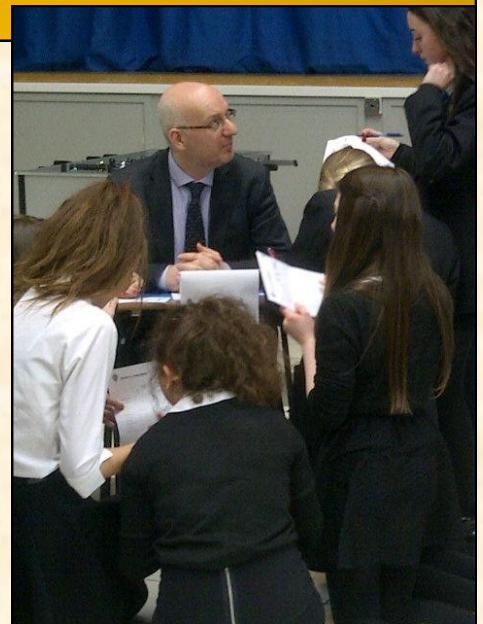
Careers Fair in All Saints Secondary

As part of the S3 options experience, all S3 pupils took part in a career speed dating event with visiting friends and professionals to find out about their language studies and how it had helped them in their respective careers.

David Leask (journalist; the Glasgow Herald) Ronnie Convery (Director of Communications; the Archdiocese of Glasgow), Stuart Leathley (Electrical Engineer) were amongst some of the visitors as well as our two senior IP candidates, our student teachers and friends of the department; including: Catherine McKay (Scaraway Nursery), Paul Middleton (ML Team), William Turner (LOL) and Nancy Clunie (HT at Dalmarnock Primary)



Pupils discovered all about the ways that languages had helped people learn about culture, enabling them to travel, especially using French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Greek and other languages.



[Return to list of features](#)

WIDENING ACCESS with Strathclyde University

The authority and Strathclyde University recently won a BASLA award for the project “Parliamo Glasgow.” This initiative targets specific Focus West Schools, challenging them to encourage more students to opt for Modern Languages from school to University. There are various events planned and the schools involved are Springburn Academy, St. Mungo’s Academy, Govan High, All Saints Secondary, Whitehill Academy and St.Margaret Mary’s Secondary. The first event was held in le bistro Beaumartin where the participants interviewed the language ambassadors from the University re the possibilities available to them for studying languages.

By then, they had the chance to find out all about the Summer School at Strathclyde University for languages and the chance to access funding for it as well.

There was a lot of buzz about the event and some of the participants even decided to add a language to their portfolio of chosen subjects at University!

Well done to everyone involved!

For more information – please contact Gillian Campbell-Thow in the ML Team.



[Return to list of features](#)

NOTICES Resources / CPD

Worth visiting:

The BBC has produced the following *Bitesize* languages resources, including film-clips; scaffolded writing plans; vocabulary for exploitation; short passages with comprehension questions and true / false questions:

Click for [National 5](#); [National 4](#); [level 3](#); [level 4](#); [primaries](#)

From the Goethe Institut, please click links:

[German Teacher Award 2014](#)

[German Language Course for Primary Teachers](#) (beginner's)

A big congratulations and welcome to the Modern Languages PT Family to Brian Landsdowne who was recently appointed as PT in St. Mungo's!

Felicitazioni e buona continuazione!

Congratulations also to Darren O'Neill, currently in S5 at Springburn Academy, on successfully securing a place on a 2 week language course in Germany this July. Darren hopes to study for a full languages baccalaureat (French & German) when he returns to school after the summer, brimming with ideas for his Interdisciplinary Project.

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[Return to list of features](#)