

Scotland's National Centre for Languages Newsletter



**Word Wizard
2017**

Welcome to the SCILT newsletter

Editorial

Dear colleagues

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2017 edition of the SCILT newsletter. As I read the articles published in this edition, the importance of what can be achieved through collaboration and partnership working immediately springs to my mind. Whether it's collaborating with other areas of the curriculum or another educational sector, working with a business partner or linking with a cultural organisation, so many gifted teachers are creating extremely rich, varied and exciting language learning experiences. This sense of being connected, of community, is very obvious amongst us linguists and rightly so. Together, we are so much greater than the sum of our parts and partnership allows us to constantly improve, invigorate and innovate language learning in Scotland. It keeps us agile, informed and able to adapt quickly to the new.

So as 2017 draws to a close, I would like to wish all of us in the languages community a very prosperous 2018. The new year will undoubtedly bring its challenges as every year does, but I am confident that language education will remain in very safe hands and that our cooperative spirit will take us from strength to strength.

Best wishes

Fhiona Mackay, Director

02

SCILT News

07

European Day of Languages

10

News from local authorities

19

News from SCIS

20

News from our partners

29

Languages beyond school

At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.



SCILT
Scotland's National Centre for Languages
LH-232 Lord Hope Building
University of Strathclyde
141 St James Road
Glasgow, G4 0LT

Tel: 0141 444 8163
Email: scilt@strath.ac.uk

Disclaimer - SCILT's newsletter is published twice a year and contains contributions from schools, local authorities and cultural organisations. It provides a forum for contributors to share some of the interesting work being carried out by the languages community across Scotland. SCILT, however, does not necessarily endorse or promote the practice described in these pages.

SCILT News

Inspiring Scotland's future global workforce



Young people from seven South Ayrshire schools had the opportunity to engage with local businesses at Prestwick Airport on 27 September 2017. S3-S6 pupils from Ayr Academy, Belmont Academy, Carrick Academy, Kyle Academy, Marr College, Queen Margaret Academy and Prestwick Academy heard from a range of business leaders who view language skills as key to the growth and success of their company. The event 'Broaden your horizons with languages' demonstrated the relevance of language skills in a work context and aimed to encourage pupils to continue with their language studies into the senior phase of their secondary education, and beyond school.

A teacher attending the event said: "Pupils were really motivated at the end of the day. The event allowed them to think about the reasons behind learning a language and the extra benefits language skills might have for them, even in a career that might not involve languages directly. It gave them an insight into the marketability of languages and how useful it is to speak languages."

Mark Pentleton, Director of Radio Lingua and one of the event speakers stated: "These events are exceptionally important in helping young people understand the benefits of learning other languages and developing cultural awareness. It's so important to recognise that a little language goes a long way and the ability to communicate in another language can often make a significant difference in the impression you give to a business contact, a prospective employer or even a new friend."

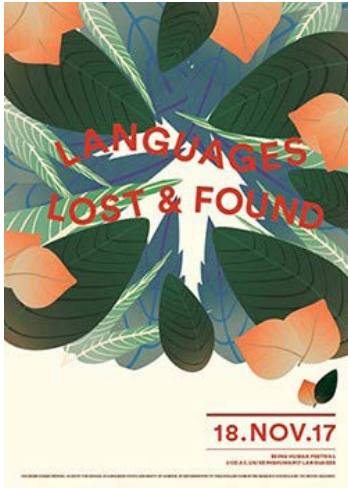
The event was organised by SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages based at University of Strathclyde, in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire. Companies attending included Culzean Castle, easyJet, Radio Lingua, the Food and Drink Federation, Project Trust and University of the West of Scotland Language Ambassadors.

More information on the work of SCILT to promote languages for employability is available on our website <http://www.scilt.org.uk/Business/tabid/1297/Default.aspx>.

Emma McLean, SCILT



Languages Lost and Found (Being Human Festival 2017)



On 18 November 2017, the University Council for Modern Languages Scotland (UCMLS) held a series of events celebrating languages and cultures across Scotland as part of the UK's annual Being Human Festival of the Humanities (<https://beinghumanfestival.org/>). The aim was to make visible the often hidden richness and diversity of languages and cultures in Scottish society through different community-led workshops and demonstrations. Events took place simultaneously in different locations across Scotland, amongst them Edinburgh, Dundee, Falkirk, Glasgow, Inverness and Oban. You can check out the full details on the Languages Lost and Found homepage (<http://bit.ly/LangsLostFound2017>). SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages and British Council Scotland support this series of events. Special thanks go to the AHRC Modern Languages Leadership Fellow, Professor Janice Carruthers, who funded some of the administrative costs and the production of the posters.

Hannah Doughty, SCILT

Professional recognition for leadership programme

On 21 September 2017, the General Teaching Council Scotland hosted their first Excellence in Professional Learning Awards, held at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow.

These awards recognise the central role that leadership at all levels plays in creating and sustaining professional learning environments where teacher professionalism can flourish and bring sustained impact on learning and learners.

Sir Harry Burns, Former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, and Ken Muir, CEO of the GTCS, presented this new award to Windygoul Primary in East Lothian, North Ayrshire Professional Learning Academy, Fife Pedagogy Team and St Ninian's High School in East Dunbartonshire. For more detail about the individual successes, visit the GTCS website www.gtcs.org.uk/News/news/gtcs-national-awards.aspx.

In addition, the awards ceremony recognised professional learning

programmes that have been accredited with Professional Recognition. As such, Lynne Jones, Professional Development Officer at SCILT, was delighted to accept a trophy on behalf of SCILT and Education Scotland as validation of the 1+2 Languages Leadership Programme (formerly known as Train the Trainer). More information about

this national, flagship professional learning opportunity is available on the SCILT website www.scilt.org.uk/A12ApproachtoLanguageLearning/Teacherseducationdevelopmentandrecruitment/tabid/2250/Default.aspx.

Lynne Jones, SCILT



Image courtesy of GTCS licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Teachers become learners with new languages project

A new project, run by the Open University in Scotland and SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages, is giving primary teachers confidence to teach languages.

Fifty-one teachers from schools across nine local authorities are participating in 'Learning to teach languages in primary school', which will see them learn French or Spanish as well as how to teach the language in class. The project aims to support the 1+2 Approach.

Angela de Britos, Professional Development Officer at SCILT, said: "Teachers have increasingly high workloads and we felt that a more flexible approach to professional learning was needed, especially for those who live in remote areas and often miss out on development opportunities. By partnering with the OU, proven experts in distance learning, SCILT is able to deliver the teaching skills to accompany the languages that teachers are learning and together we can ensure a high quality learning experience. This innovative and comprehensive course will enable teachers to grow in confidence and is an excellent opportunity to build languages capacity within primary schools across the country."

Gwen McCrossan, Principal Teacher for 1+2 Languages, Argyll and Bute said: "This course is ideal for the geographical situation of Argyll and Bute. We are delighted to be able to take part, as it provides a quality learning experience for teachers who would otherwise find it difficult to access language training – we even have one teacher enrolled on Tiree. The course is unique because it is tailor-made for primary school."

Research shows that young people are much more likely to succeed with learning languages if they are exposed to new languages in primary school. 'Learning to teach languages in primary school' helps equip primary teachers across Scotland, in both rural and urban settings, with the skills and confidence they need to support their pupils.

Lynne Jones, SCILT

Remember SCILT leaflets are free to order for schools!



SCILT has a range of leaflets to convince learners and parents of the importance of language learning. These include resources to explain the 1+2 Approach to parents, introduce the links between language learning and improved literacy and advocate for language learning for all pupils in your school. We also have promotional bookmarks for pupils and postcards to encourage learners to continue with languages into the senior phase and beyond.

All SCILT resources are free for schools to order. Visit our website to see the range of leaflets available and to download the order form <http://bit.ly/SCILTresources>.

Sarah Macfarlane, SCILT

The national languages leadership programme welcomes its largest cohort yet



The Scottish Government's 1+2 Approach to language learning is committed to providing the opportunity for all children in Scottish schools to learn two languages, over and above their mother tongue, by June 2021.

Language learning enhances cognitive and social skills for people as well as supporting international trade and economic growth for society. Ultimately, such an ambition will involve more young people and more teachers in language learning in schools across the country. Therefore, a strong commitment to leadership development and professional learning is required from teachers in all sectors.

Rising to this challenge, 51 teachers from primary and secondary schools in 21 different local authorities, the private sector and two universities came together for a week-long summer school hosted by Education

Scotland in partnership with SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages at the University of Strathclyde's city centre campus in Glasgow. It marked the largest number of teachers to date to have attended the summer school which was remarkable, given that it took place in the first week of the school summer holidays. This was the start of the fifth run of the national professional learning opportunity, and the first under its new name, the 1+2 Languages Leadership Programme (1+2 LLP).

In terms of the wider teaching profession, Louise Glen, Senior Education Officer (Literacy and Languages) at Education Scotland, explained that the programme is all about broadening opportunities for capacity building: 'Many of the 2017 participants may not yet be involved in direct support for the 1+2 policy, but are looking to do so in the future.' 1+2 LLP content is a balance of theory,

research, policy and practice relevant to language learning and, as such, it carries accreditation from the General Teaching Council Scotland.

Fhiona Mackay, Director of SCILT, confirmed that the summer school element of the programme is only made possible by active collaboration: 'In this way, we become greater than the sum of our parts.'

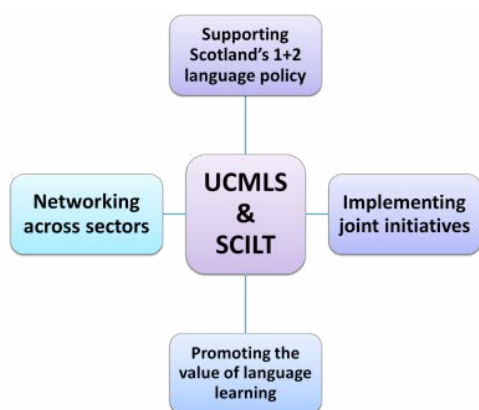
Chinese, French, Gaelic, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin and Spanish were all represented amongst participants and presenters. Presenters came from a range of partner organisations to share their expertise: Classics for All; Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools; EAL Service, Glasgow City Council; Goethe-Institut; Institut Français (IFE); Languages for Education Europe (LFEE); Lingo Flamingo and Störlann.

Lisa Adair, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages at Braeview Academy in Dundee, said: "What a brilliant experience the last week has been. So very worthwhile in so many ways – thanks to everyone involved! I have taken away some great ideas, input, insights, and ammunition to help me continue with the campaign to embed the 1+2 policy and maintain the very important place of languages in our Scottish curriculum. I am grateful for this opportunity and for the chance to have met some great colleagues and practitioners."

More information on the programme is available on our website www.scilt.org.uk/A12ApproachtLanguageLearning/Teacherseducation,developmentandrecruitment/tabid/2250/Default.aspx.

Lynne Jones, SCILT

UCMLS and you!



For the third year running, autumn 2017 saw UCMLS hold four regional cross-sector (HE-secondary-primary) hub meetings in Aberdeen (12 September), Edinburgh (13 September), Glasgow (14 September) and St Andrews (16 September). To enable teachers living further afield to participate, we also held two Skype sessions. We provided an update of past and future activities, including expanded collaboration with SCILT promotional initiatives: Business Brunches, Language Linking Global Thinking, Mother Tongue Other Tongue and Word Wizard. Full details are available on the SCILT website http://bit.ly/UCMLS_on_SCILT.

The next set of regional hub meetings will take place in January/February 2018.

If you would like to start working more closely with the languages department of your local university, please get in touch via SCILT in the first instance scilt@strath.ac.uk.

Marion Spöring, University of Dundee and Chair UCMLS

Word Wizard 2017

Young people from across the country attended the Scottish Parliament on 12 May 2017 to celebrate language learning and showcase their skills in French, Gaelic, German, Chinese and Spanish.

The national final of Word Wizard 2017 brought together 48 pupils from 23 schools and nine local authorities to compete in the language they had been learning at school and test their vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation and memory skills.

Pupils had been practising since November 2016 and battled it out for a place at the final during the highly competitive semi-finals in March 2017. 170 pupils from 20 local authorities and independent schools entered the competition, which SCILT runs in collaboration with the UCMLS, with semi-finals taking place in the Universities of Strathclyde, Dundee and Aberdeen.

The Scottish Parliament provided impressive surroundings for the prestigious final, where pupils competed in front of an audience of teachers, parents, supporters and special guests. The event



was sponsored by Colin Beattie MSP and guests included representatives from the European Commission, the Chinese Consulate, the Goethe-Institut and the Institut Français.

What pupils enjoyed about Word Wizard 2017:

- I liked learning new words, it gave me a head start in class
- I enjoyed getting the chance to compete
- I enjoyed performing in front of the crowd, but most of all listening to the other languages, which was inspiring

What teachers enjoyed about Word Wizard 2017:

- it's great to see pupils enjoying languages at a national level
- practice for the competition has allowed pupils to increase their confidence and has allowed pupils to be competitive with each other in a different way
- it really helped with pronunciation and confidence

You can see the full list of winners and photos from the final on our website bit.ly/WWFinal2017. Find out more about the competition on our Word Wizard webpage bit.ly/SCILT_WordWizard.

Alice Lister, SCILT

European Day of Languages

Largs Academy, North Ayrshire

51 pupils took part in a day of activities to celebrate European Day of Languages. They had the chance to try Portuguese and watch Mr McFadyen's Samba dancing, which was a major highlight. They learnt some Chinese from Jianxing and feedback indicated pupils would like to study Chinese in the future.

Pupils with a flair for the dramatic had the opportunity to create music videos in the target languages, and the singing and dancing were second-to-none.

Mrs Tait and Lewis shared stories from their recent trip to Malawi. This helped pupils gain a greater appreciation of the work Mrs Tait and the Charity Committee do for our partner school.

Pupils were able to put their team building and engineering skills to the test with Miss Gall's Eiffel Tower building challenge. This activity brought out the pupils' competitive side and they made great attempts at recreating the Eiffel Tower from only newspapers and tape. Pupils tested their knowledge of Europe and used their ICT skills with Miss Kerr's iPad treasure hunt quiz. All of the pupils worked hard to find out more about the geography and languages of Europe.

A highlight of the day was the video of teachers speaking different languages. Many thanks to Miss Gall for creating the video and all of the fantastic teachers who contributed. This will be a great reminder of European Day of Languages 2017.

Lindsey Kerr, Largs Academy



Menstrie Primary, Clackmannanshire

Menstrie Primary held an assembly where pupils sang songs in either French or Spanish. Children also took part in a range of activities throughout the day from flag making to researching facts on different European countries

Caroline Bryden, Menstrie Primary



Newbattle Associated Schools Group, Midlothian

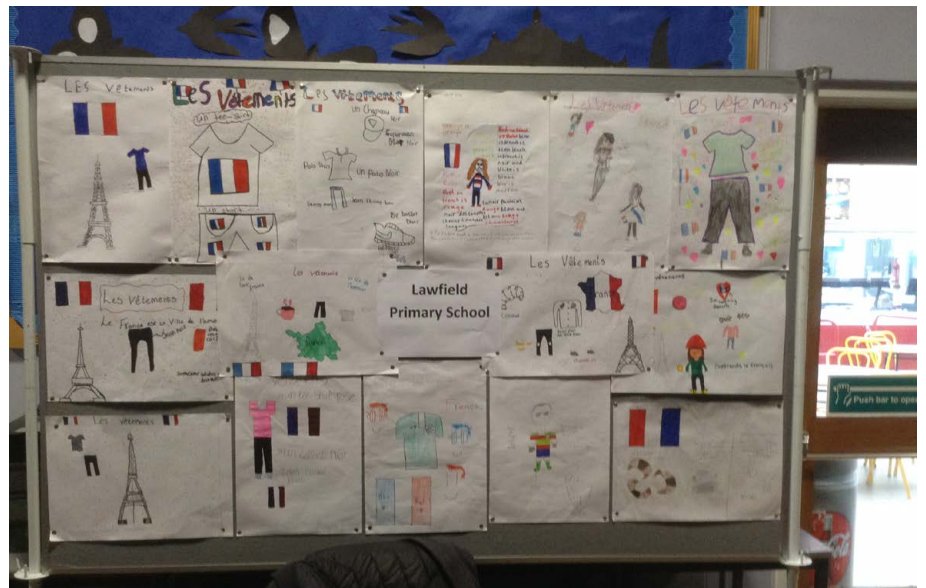
Pupils from across the Newbattle Associated Schools Group (ASG) participated in a very successful event to celebrate the European Day of Languages on 26 September 2017 at Newbattle High School. P7 pupils from Moorfoot, Lawfield, Gore Glen, Gorebridge, Stobhill, Mayfield and Newtongrange Primaries all participated in the event to celebrate language learning in Midlothian and support the implementation of the 1+2 Approach, which sees all pupils in the ASG learn French from P1 to P7.

Pupils put on a fashion show, with fantastic commentaries in French, and made posters of their fashion designs, which we displayed around the main hall at Newbattle High. Pupils took part in a French quiz and a variety of fun and engaging activities relating to clothes, fashion and colour. The event was organised and hosted by the Modern Languages Department

at Newbattle High and P7 teachers from all the primaries worked extremely hard to make this event a success. It was also supported by senior pupils from Newbattle High. Feedback from the pupils was that they wished they

had more time! It was a great example of cross-sector collaboration between the primary and secondary sectors. Congratulations to all who took part!

Margaret Ballantyne, Midlothian Council



Park Primary, Argyll and Bute

On European Day of Languages 2017, P5 worked with P1 on a range of activities. They used Lego, painting, puppets and board games to practise colours and numbers in French. P5 enjoyed teaching for the day and P1 loved working with the big boys and girls.

**Caroline Bryden,
Park Primary**



St Margaret's Academy, West Lothian

At St Margaret's Academy in Livingston, classes celebrated European Day of Languages through a range of different activities. Pupils built an Eiffel Tower with straws, created posters on language learning, played French boules, learnt songs, and took part in games and quizzes. At a whole school 'smart time', pupils watched a video of staff and pupils speaking in different languages. They had to guess which language was being spoken and what was being said.

S6 pupils visited S1 pupils and gave them a taster lesson in Italian. Later, they were rewarded for their hard work with a croquembouche! The school held a staff fiesta to thank staff for their

support and to encourage them to get involved in language learning.

We ran two competitions throughout the week. For the Twitter competition, pupils had to create a slogan to promote language learning. The winning tweet was from Isla Keogh in S1:

'Your 1st language is a corridor and every one you learn is a door. Every door opens a new opportunity, aim for yours to be unlocked.'

A special mention should also go to Alicia Boden in S4 for 'Learn more languages and use the advantages' and Rebecca Eyles in S2 for 'A language is like a bag of sweets, there are so

many flavours'. Local restaurant, Prezzo, provided Isla with her prize – a meal for two! We also ran a poster competition for S2 and Leena Abbas and Aaqib Baig were winners.

Jennifer Murphy, St Margaret's Academy



News from local authorities

1+2 at Braehead Primary



Recently, Braehead Primary in Stirling held the launch of its Confucius Hub. Chinese has been taught at the school for over two years and has been chosen as the school's L3. Now, in order to establish the teaching of French (L2), teacher, Karen Faulds, will be working with all 13

classes. It is hoped that this level of provision will provide consistency in teaching and learning from P1-P7.

Karen has introduced some novel learning approaches to address the needs of learners of different ages.

Pierre and Hamish are the latest additions to the school's languages department, where they are listened to with rapturous enthusiasm, not just by the youngest pupils, but even the P7s. Pierre has been teaching a poem, 'Deux petits oiseaux', to P2s and conducting more complex conversations with P7. Hamish learns alongside the children.

Karen said, 'The children look forward to seeing them and can't have one without the other. They're definitely a much-loved double act!'

Following on from the multilingual broadcasts that form the Braehead Languages Café, a group of pupils of different ages recorded their first French Podcast on the subject of sport, with older pupils supporting their younger schoolmates. Sport was chosen as the focus for the newest podcast due to its ability to cross international boundaries, linguistically and culturally. For example, their study of the Tour de France allowed pupils to develop a wide variety of skills and knowledge, including mapping and presentation skills, as well as cultural awareness and associated language.

Previously, the school had found that the teaching of French had been inconsistent and staff were lacking in confidence when it came to their own language skills. Karen, a French graduate and enthusiastic Francophile, says, 'I would like to establish the teaching of French across the school and the cluster and work with local high schools to improve transition in languages.'

Karen Faulds and Susan Lawson, Braehead Primary



Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand SunnySing 2017



This year, eight Aberdeen City primary schools once again celebrated the French 'Fête de la Musique', which took place on Wednesday 21 June 2017. At 10am British time (11am French time) pupils from Heathryburn, Westpark, Broomhill, Brimmond, Mile End, Ferryhill, Fernielea and Cornhill schools sang together with their French partner schools. Some established live links via Skype or FaceTime. Brimmond School shared their videos on their Twitter feed.

This annual singing and art event, organised in partnership with Modern Languages Curriculum Support Officers in our twin city of Clermont-Ferrand, has a different theme each year. This year the theme was SunnySing and pupils learnt 'sunny songs' in both English and French. Schools also created 'sunny displays'. Jo Dillon from Brimmond School, whose pupils connected via FaceTime with Ecole Artonne, commented that 'it was a great experience for the pupils and they loved it!'

Lara Freeman, Aberdeen City

Biscuits galore! Elgin Academy business link with Walkers Shortbread



For some S2 pupils from Elgin Academy, the term began with a busy and exciting visit to Walkers Shortbread HQ in Aberlour, Moray. This is the second year that the link with Walkers Shortbread has taken place. This type of link can be done as part of an elective in the BGE or as part of the 'Languages for life and work award' in S3. Last year, the link was made with a lunchtime China Club, led by the Chinese teacher. This year, all S2 pupils have one Chinese lesson every two weeks.

The pupils have been studying Chinese since January with the support of the Hanban teacher Sufang Wang and under the guidance of Jérôme Lestienne, PT of Modern Languages. The pupils presented to members of the international team and human resources team at Walkers Shortbread. The presentations reflected what they had

learned so far, which included simple greetings, some numbers and how to express numbers with hand gestures, and explanations of what is peculiar to the Chinese language such as learning tones and characters.

The presentations also incorporated advice on effective 'dos and don'ts' of Chinese business etiquette. These were well-received by the International Team, who later explained they are increasingly doing business with China. It is now one of the top ten countries with whom they deal and in the near future they will be opening an office in Shanghai.

The team asked pupils questions about their Chinese language learning experience. Pupils replied they had found it interesting and were grateful to have the chance to learn some Chinese while at school.

Pupils were judged on presentation skills, clarity of delivery, content, structure and language skills. The winning group were generously rewarded with a prize and all pupils left with a goodie bag.

The Director of the International Team thanked them for the useful and stimulating presentations. He highlighted the fact that the company would be delighted to employ staff in the future with such relevant knowledge.

Meryl James and Li Tian, CISS

If you want to know more about SCILT's Business Language Champions, please visit the SCILT website www.scilt.org.uk/Business/Developing_languageskillsfortheworldofwork/tabid/1597/Default.aspx. If you are interested in developing a similar programme in your school please contact the SCILT team scilt@strath.ac.uk.

CSI Stirling

Last year, I worked alongside SCILT and Stirling Castle to establish a business partnership aimed at developing employability skills and enhancing language skills with my Higher German class.

We devised a project called 'CSI Stirling', which focused on language normally studied in the 'Society and culture' units at Higher. Pupils were invited to the castle to participate in the project whereby they examined a pre-existing exhibition centred on the identity of two skeletons which were found during an excavation of the castle grounds. In order to find out more about who these people once were, pupils gathered information about the individuals by examining factors such as where they were brought up, the food they ate, how they died and why they were buried in the castle. Pupils used information from facial reconstruction technology and forensic evidence to help conclude their findings. They were then tasked with creating a video of their experience and putting together a storyboard of their ideas. Pupils worked in groups and, supported by myself and our German Language Assistant, scripted and produced three short films.

This was a fantastic experience for the pupils as it allowed them to take their language learning out of the classroom and put it to good use in their local community. This had an incredibly positive impact on pupils' confidence and allowed them to use their German for a real purpose. As well as improving their pronunciation and vocabulary, they developed key skills for life and work such as improved communication, team working and professionalism. The impact was wholly positive from a pupil perspective and this project really raised the profile of German in our learning community.

Kevin McAdam, PT Modern Languages, Stirling High



We went to Stirling castle to find out about the CSI Stirling project. We did this through a guided tour of the castle, during which we found out all about what we had to do. We were given time to shoot some videos and take pictures in and around the castle. We then went back to school and wrote scripts in both German and English from the knowledge we gained at our visit to the castle. We made our scripts with the help of our teacher, Mr McAdam, and our German assistant, Jenny. After this we made the videos and some members of our class were given the task of editing the final pieces.

This project has impacted on me positively as I am now much more in touch with the history of the town that I live in and I am proud to say that I have contributed to the experience of German visitors to Stirling. The

filming aspect helped me to improve my confidence in speaking German as I had to learn to pronounce new words in a short space of time. The project helped broaden my German vocabulary as I got the chance to learn words which are not usually taught in a classroom setting. This was especially helpful for my confidence going into my Higher German exam. This was a unique project to be a part of and it was definitely a great opportunity for all involved. I felt privileged to work with the employees of the Castle who were all very friendly and approachable. The project offered me a great insight into the world of work, as I learned to work to a deadline. It has definitely helped me to improve my time-keeping and planning and I am now much more organised for my life beyond school.

Tom Clafferty, S6 pupil, Stirling High

Dalry Primary Global Goals week 2017

At Dalry Primary, the pupils and staff are on an international education journey. The focus of our teaching and learning is the Global Goals for Sustainability and Primary Language Learning. We gained our International School Award in 2015, and as a result have a clear vision to develop international learning further through a broad range of curricular areas. For the past two years we have organised a Global Goals' Week. This year, our learning focused on health and nutrition, food production, sustainability, packaging and waste in our local and wider community.

Our Global Ambassadors Pupil Team planned the week using the key questions: 'What can I do differently?' and 'Who can I tell?' They planned lessons for the whole school and invited cluster primary pupils and local representatives



to visit the school and share in our learning. As part of our action plan, we endeavour to be ambassadors for Global Goals and international education by sharing our experiences and disseminating good practice. St Palladius and Beith Primaries came to work with our P7s on Global Goals games.

Each class chose a country to focus on and learned about food and ingredients

from that country. P3 chose Mexico and learnt how to make salsa. They had the pleasure of a visit from Señorita Arneil who presented the history of Mexico,

introducing some new Spanish vocabulary. The pupils had a brilliant time and shared their learning through an iMovie at assembly. Our journey continues as we broaden our awareness of international education and the Global Goals through planned focus weeks and we see pupils gaining new skills for life.

Lesley Sim, Dalry Primary

eTwinning in Angus

During the week beginning 11 September 2017, Natalie Wotherspoon, 1+2 staff tutor in Angus Council, welcomed two colleagues from France. Nicolas Maillet works for l'académie Orléans-Tours and his main role is to support French teachers in delivering lessons in English and Sylvie Desfriches is a primary teacher in France.

The visit aimed to develop closer working relationships between teachers in Scotland and France through face-to-face meetings, and to begin to link schools in France with schools in Angus, specifically schools in Orléans-Tours, Eure-et-Loir and Chartres. Throughout the week, a range of primary schools invited the team for a visit, including Maisondieu Primary in Brechin where one of the classes has plans to start to link with Sylvie. This was a great

opportunity for the teachers to meet in person and discuss future initiatives, including how the eTwinning site could support communication.

Natalie, Nicolas and Sylvie visited Monikie Primary and Whitehills Primary, where the pupils demonstrated their knowledge of the French language and gave a tour of each school.

Aberlemno and Isla Primaries also welcomed the visitors. They have already created links with schools in France, so it was a great opportunity to learn from teachers and pupils who have experience of twinning. During each visit, class teachers discussed what they expected to learn from linking with a French school: teachers and pupils hoped to write to each other in the language they are learning, share videos and presentations about their



schools and ask questions about life in France/Scotland.

We are all truly excited to see our plans put into practice!

Natalie Wotherspoon, PanTayside

Focus on French at Robert Owen Memorial Primary

On 21 September, we had our 'Focus on French' day in school. It was a great experience for us as we were busy selling raffle tickets for our 'fantastique' French hamper and selling 'des brioches au chocolat et des petits chocolats chauds' in our mobile French tuck shop. Children in their classes were also very busy but having fun doing French activities, and parents and carers were able to pop into classes to see everything that was happening.

We had a French coffee morning, which was run by some of our P7 pupils in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support, so after joining in our hard work, parents and carers could relax with 'un café et un gâteau'. We made a total of £787.68 for this worthwhile charity so 'merci beaucoup' to everyone who helped us!

We had been planning the 'Focus on French' day for weeks and we worked our socks off!

This session, we are looking for two new French ambassadors to join our team. We have received 22 applications, which we are reading through while we enjoy our own 'brioche chocolat et gros chocolat chaud' to reward ourselves for our hard work!

We love being part of the French Ambassador team at Robert Owen Memorial Primary and we think it is a brilliant way of encouraging learning about French!

Owen, Leland, Amy and Hugh, French Ambassadors, Robert Owen Memorial Primary



Gaelic at St Bridget's Primary



St Bridget's early years class in North Ayrshire was nominated in the Cream of Ayrshire Awards. The early years class is in the final three for 'Class of the year 2017'.

To promote the Gaelic language further, the senior management team agreed to continue the Gaelic lessons that began in nursery into P1. This means the children are building on their existing knowledge and embedding Gaelic into their P1 experiences. The P1s are sharing their knowledge with the whole school at assembly each week. This multi-staged learning is proving popular with the children in the upper primary levels. They are remembering what they learnt in early years and are excited to be building on it.

Sarita Taggart, St Bridget's Early Years class

Gracemount High and the Scottish National Gallery

Thousands of adults, tourists and school children visit the Scottish National Gallery every year. However, young people aged 13-25 years are not regular visitors.

Every summer, language schools bring large groups of young people (16-25 years) to the Scottish National Gallery. Often, they are not very interested in the art. Some of them spend more time looking at their phones than looking at the art.

A partnership was established between the Scottish National Gallery and S3 pupils from Gracemount High. Pupils were challenged by the gallery to come up with a solution to encourage young people from Germany, aged 13-25 years, to visit the Scottish National Gallery and

make their visit more engaging. Pupils were invited to the Scottish National Gallery in May 2017 to present their ideas.

Despite their nerves, pupils successfully presented to Liz Conacher (Schools Learning Coordinator at Scottish National Gallery), Lou Fraser (freelancer artist who worked with the class for three sessions), Lorna Macdonald and Bethan Owen, both from Edinburgh City Council.

Pupils had come up with some amazingly creative ideas, including artworks made from sugar that you could eat, virtual reality goggles, paintings coming to life, Sunday night cooking for the homeless and volunteering opportunities for young people.

Susan Tower, Modern Languages Teacher, said of the project: "This partnership really brought the best out of our pupils. Liz supported them through their presentations with positive, encouraging remarks and fabulous questioning. Lou captured their imaginations and opened their minds a little more. I am so proud of these pupils."

Liz Conacher, Scottish National Gallery

To find out more about SCILT's Business Language Champions, please visit the SCILT website www.scilt.org.uk/Business/DevelopingLanguagesSkillsfortheWorldofWork/tabid/1597/Default.aspx. If you are interested in developing a similar programme in your school please contact the SCILT team scilt@strath.ac.uk.

Language learning at Beath High

At Beath High, we offer pupils the chance to learn French, German and Spanish from S1 to the senior phase. A few years ago, languages were in danger of disappearing from the senior phase due to low numbers but we have worked tirelessly to promote our 'Languages for all' policy and we now have three senior phase classes.

German is currently the most popular language in senior phase. Three years ago we hosted a teacher from Germany for two weeks. The pupils loved working with her and hearing about her experiences. As a result of the visit, we were able to launch a school trip to Frankfurt and host some German pupils in school during their visit to Scotland. Our German learners had lots of opportunities to try their German out with native speakers in authentic contexts and were highly motivated to learn more. Many of the pupils who participated in the trip are

now studying German at Higher and N5 level.

Spanish is our most popular language in the BGE. This year we are really excited to be participating in Language Linking Global Thinking. Our student link, Ross Brown, came to meet our S3 Spanish learners before heading off to Andalucía for the year. Ross wants to work in the football industry as a translator and he really got some of our pupils thinking about the different possibilities available for working with languages.

We organise annual trips to the cinema, local restaurants and the Edinburgh Christmas Market and we have coordinated immersion PE lessons, Remembrance Day activities and food tasting sessions for a number of years. We are working with SCILT to establish a Business Language Champion link and our next trip will be an S2 immersion



language camp with some senior pupils as young leaders. We are always looking for new ways to promote languages for all.

Erin Sinclair, Beath High

If you want to know more about SCILT's Language Linking Global Thinking project, please visit the SCILT website www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool/LanguageLinkingGlobalThinking/tabid/5388/Default.aspx. If you are interested in developing a similar programme in your school please contact the SCILT team scilt@strath.ac.uk.

Lingo Live in North Ayrshire



As a celebration of successful language learning and a reward for everyone's efforts in supporting the implementation of the 1+2 Approach, we hosted a 'Lingo Live' event at Saltcoats Town Hall. This language extravaganza featured French, Spanish, Chinese, Gaelic and BSL. All age groups participated in pupil-led stations where every language told a story. Lingo Live was hosted by our very own Cultural Development Manager, Lesley Forsyth.

Performances began with our youngest generation and nursery pupils opened

the show in Gaelic before taking part in a workshop called 'The three Donalds'. Pupils from Elderbank Primary signed a stunning version of 'Somewhere over the rainbow'. Chinese activities were led by Xueping, Jiaying and Greenwood Academy pupils, and participants could try ink drawing, Kung Fu and playing the Hulusi bamboo pipe.

Whitehirst Park Primary shared their outdoor learning journey, using French, and were awarded John Muir Discovery Level certificates. Bravo tout le monde!

There was no-one better to run a game of Elimination Lingo Bingo than St Winning's inter-generational buddies! If your number was called, you sat down. ¡Sentaos! ¡Bien hecho!

Dalry Primary performed 'El lobo hambriento', based on Little Red Riding Hood; St Anthony's Primary loved showing off their Spanish animation called 'Go go globo', and there was a lot of interest in learning to sign with Violet Shaw, our home/

school link worker. Gaelic closed the show with a special performance from St Peter's Primary and Scottish Opera.

Largs Academy pupils spent the day as our IT Ninjas, and we appreciate all of the fabulous photos and videos they took. I hope this gives you a flavour of what a fantastic day we had.

1+2 – look what it can do! Together we can achieve great things.

Stacey Arneil, North Ayrshire



Poetry at Craigroyston High

Craigroyston High S2 recently studied a poetry unit looking at metaphors. Working in groups, they produced a structured poem about a sunflower by finishing off several sentences, eg Je sens / Je touche / Je vois / J'entends etc. I gave them the first two lines, 'Qui suis-je? Je suis le tournesol' and they had to write from the perspective of being a sunflower.

Je suis le tournesol

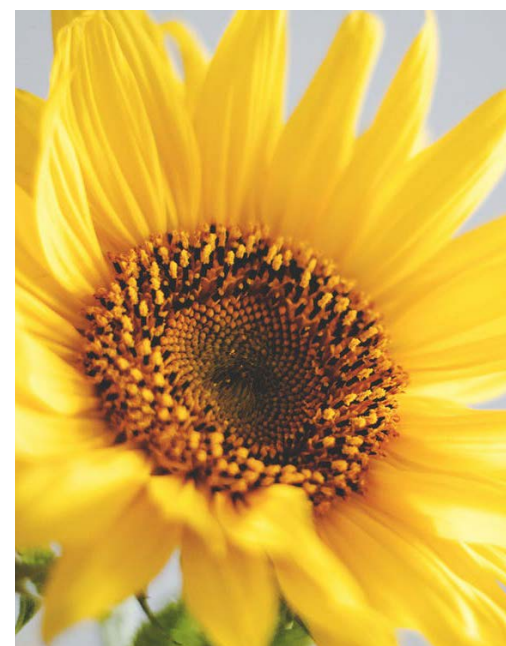
Qui suis-je?
Je suis le tournesol
Je vois partout autour de moi des tournesols
J'entends le chant des oiseaux
Je sens que je suis un tournesol
Je goûte le pollen
Je touche l'eau qui vient de mes racines

Je sais, je sais ... je suis un tournesol
Je me sens heureux avec les autres tournesols
Je pense aux jours à venir
J'imagine la vie sans une tige

Je rêve d'une vie loin des champs
J'espère que mes frères et sœurs vont grandir hauts et beaux
J'adore le bourdonnement des abeilles
Mais j'ai peur de la bête qui hurle

Je veux une vie où je vais prendre les décisions pour moi-même
J'ai besoin de pieds, de pieds s'il vous plaît, rien que ça !

Ella Blake, Ashley Forrest, Hollie Speirs, Ilari Tsiko and William Wilson, Craigroyston High



Rainbow of languages sing-along in North Ayrshire primary schools

Over 30 North Ayrshire primary schools participated in a simultaneous sing-along to kick off celebrations for the European Day of Languages 2017. The event was organised by the 1+2 North Ayrshire team and supported by class teachers. Pupils gathered in gym halls, dinner halls and classrooms with the North Ayrshire 1+2 team via Glow to sing 'I can sing a rainbow' in English, French, Spanish, BSL and Makaton at 10:05am. Angela Noble, Stacey Arneil and Violet Shaw appeared live on giant screens leading the sing-along. The sing-along consisted of three verses, and pupils performed the first verse in English, the second verse in the school's L2 and the third verse in English again. Following the live sing-along, pupils enjoyed activities



organised in their own school. St Bridget's tasted European food, Winton Primary worked with their catering staff to put on a Spanish lunch and held an open afternoon for parents and carers to come and take part in Spanish activities. Annick Primary P4-P7 pupils ran a very successful French

café and the whole school dressed up in rainbow or French flag colours. The 1+2 team was buzzing with pride after the successful 'Rainbow of languages sing-along'!

Angela Noble, North Ayrshire



South American Spanish day at the zoo

Thursday 8 June 2017 was an important date for P6 and not because Theresa May decided to have her snap election that day. P6 managed to secure themselves an opportunity to attend a South American Spanish event at Edinburgh Zoo.

To start the day, P6 had a short introduction via video from Dr Arnaud Desbiez, who manages the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) South American projects. Sandie Robb then explained a new initiative, 'Science in the language class', which links RZSS conservation projects to language learning. This led into a fun quiz that covered facts about South American animals and included Spanish questions on numbers, colours and parts of the body. Afterwards, Xabier San Isidro from the Spanish Embassy Education

Office told us his story of how his love for languages shaped his life. Born in Catalonia, Xabier quickly became multilingual. He went on to become a teacher then finally an Education Advisor for the Spanish Embassy. After his presentation, Xabier invited P6 to have their photo taken with him. As you can see from the photo below, they thought this was very exciting!

Once we had our photos taken, Sandie kindly led us on a guided tour and pointed out some South American animals. We had an absolute ball in the rain. To top it all off, we also managed to secure the school a fabulous game called, 'Especies en peligro', 'Endangered species' to any of you who don't speak Spanish.

Ross Anderson, Preston Street Primary



Trinity High languages in work event

For the last few years, the Modern Languages department in Trinity High School, Renfrew, have hosted a 'Languages in work' event for S3 pupils. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of jobs that use languages and how learning a language can enhance the prospects of pupils in the future.

The event has included workshops from a variety of employers, including Chivas Regal, Clansman Dynamics, the SFA, IBERDROLA, IBM, SCILT, Rolls Royce, Harper Macleod LLP, Black Rock and Developing the Young Workforce. Staff feel the event is an excellent opportunity to help pupils see the relevance of language learning for the world of work.

The event is very worthwhile for both the staff and pupils and the overall assessment of the pupils is usually extremely positive. One pupil commented after the event last year: 'Today I learnt about the wide variety of jobs that you can get with languages and how you can combine languages with other skills.'



The number of pupils continuing with a language has been positive over the last few years with roughly half of the year group choosing to continue with a language beyond S3. We hope that the

event, which takes place this year on 8 November 2017, will prove to be just as successful as it has been in the past.

Elena Goldie, Trinity High

Trump Turnberry hotel visit

Children across South Ayrshire primary schools entered the Trump Turnberry hotel French advertisement competition. The seven winners from Girvan, Sacred Heart, Invergarvan, Barr and Barrhill Primaries won a trip to the hotel.

It was a trip worth remembering! Trump Turnberry is a luxurious hotel and during our visit, we got a tour that included the ballroom, the spa and even one of the most luxurious bedrooms.

Marie Claire from the hotel took us on

our tour. She told us about the history of the hotel and we saw some pictures of the old train station, which is now the hotel. Marie Claire's boss met us and we had the opportunity to show our advertisements to both of them.

After that, we went out of the hotel and walked all the way down to the clubhouse, and yes, we did get to play golf! We had a lesson from two golfers and we all played in a mini competition. A few of us didn't do very well, but at least we tried! Afterwards, we travelled in a mini bus to the Turnberry lighthouse, where we got

shortbread and refreshments. We learnt that the lighthouse is now a hotel suite and there are two bedrooms, a lounge and mini kitchen.

We all had a wonderful experience and wish we could visit again. We enjoyed the different activities we did and the staff members we met. We would all like to say thank you to Janette who was the one who organised this whole event for us. We were so lucky to have this opportunity!

Zoya and Kaci, Girvan Primary

News from SCIS

Word Wizard

When learning a language, everything counts. Every word, article, letter, accent and piece of punctuation is monumental. That is what we have come to learn from our experience at SCILT's Word Wizard spelling competition.

The competition, organised by SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages, and the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, consists of a series of stages – heats within your own school followed by regional semi-finals – that all lead up to the long-awaited finals, held annually at the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh. Competitors can enter in one of two levels: Beginner and Intermediate. The event is open to anyone keen to stretch the limits of their language learning.

The idea of spelling competitively, especially in a language you are learning at school, is no doubt daunting. However, challenge quickly dwarfs this fear and unfamiliarity. From our experience, it might be the best way to gain trust between yourself and a language your



tongue is not accustomed to. It is as if spelling in that language becomes second nature; everything falls into place almost seamlessly and attention to detail becomes a reflex.

Of course, on a wider scale, Word Wizard has and continues to leave a positive effect on Scotland's language learning community. At its heart, the

competition is a national celebration of Scotland's international connections, and, from our experience, it is definitely more than just a spelling competition.

Lujine Ibrahim, S3, High School of Glasgow

Find out more about SCILT's Word Wizard competition on the SCILT website bit.ly/SCILT_WordWizard.



News from our partners

Bring the world into your school

The new 'Bring the world into your school' brochure from British Council details each British Council programme and shows how they have been developed to strengthen the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. The brochure outlines how international education can be used across Scotland to improve whole school performance. 'Bring the world into your school' is available in hard copy on request and can be downloaded from the British Council Scotland website - <https://scotland.britishcouncil.org/bring-world-your-school>.

Liz Neil, British Council

Development Officers visit European Commission in Brussels

A selection of staff who are responsible for the implementation of 'Language learning: A 1+2 Approach' were invited for a visit to the European Commission in Brussels on 18 September 2017. Amongst those invited were 1+2 Development Officers, Quality Improvement Officers, Heads of Education and representatives from the cultural institutes. Also present was Toria Fraser, who is the Languages Policy Manager at Scottish Government.

There were presentations about the background and role of the European Commission as well as input from the translation and interpretation services. We also gained an insight into how language learning and linguistic diversity is promoted in Europe and given an overview of tools for European cooperation, such as Erasmus+. Midlothian has been very successful in sending teachers on language immersion

courses via Erasmus+, particularly since the launch of the 1+2 Approach.

It was interesting to see that the European Commission employs many Scots who use their languages in the workplace every day. This should inspire young language learners across Scotland and contribute towards 'Developing the Young Workforce' priorities.

Margaret Ballantyne, Midlothian Council



Erasmus+ 2018 information for schools

The European Commission has recently announced the 2018 application deadlines (<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/funding-deadlines>), which for schools are 1 February and 21 March 2018 for Key Action 1 and 2 respectively. Full details are contained in the 2018 Call for Proposals and the 2018 Programme Guide, which can be found on the Erasmus+ website (<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/key-resources#programme-guide>). The UK is taking part in Erasmus+ as normal in 2018 (please see our Brexit webpage (<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/article-50-update-0>) if you or your partners need any reassurance). In 2018, the new School Exchange Partnerships (part of Key Action 2) will be supported by a 40% increase in funding and a simpler application process so that lots more

schools can get involved and benefit from Erasmus+.

School Exchange Partnerships aim to support short-term exchanges of pupils for a minimum of three days at a time, as well as longer-term pupil exchanges of up to a year. You can also still arrange staff training and teaching assignments as before. These new partnership opportunities are an ideal way to enable you to visit your eTwinning partners. More information will be provided at the 2018 information sessions and through the application support process from the UK National Agency, so UK schools should gear up for a bumper Erasmus+ year!

If you need any inspiration, please do look at the Erasmus+ schools projects

lists for 2017, to see what other schools are doing through Erasmus+:

- school staff mobility funding results (KA101) <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/file/5271/download>
- schools education partnership results (KA201) <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/file/5691/download>
- schools-only partnership results (KA219) <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/file/5692/download>

You can also watch this Brae High School video of their Erasmus+ project, which brings the programme to life www.youtube.com/watch?v=tE5ud5XVpQ.

Liz Neil, British Council

Euroquiz

Euroquiz is an annual project for P6 pupils, which sees teams of four working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe and the wider world. Euroquiz started with just six schools from Edinburgh and the competition has grown to involve 31 local authorities across Scotland. Over 11,000 pupils have directly participated in Euroquiz in the last five years.

In addition to knowledge about European matters, citizenship and culture, pupils gain various transferable skills while preparing for the Euroquiz heats and final. The language focus within Euroquiz involves children exploring four different languages, with an emphasis on developing confidence in using these



languages for communication. We work alongside local authorities and schools to provide teachers with the guidance and resources they need to support the development of confident language learners and outward-looking, engaged citizens.

The national final of Euroquiz in May 2017 saw teams from each of the 31 participating local authority areas attend the national final in the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament, with more than 300 people in attendance. Based on their experience and the success of Euroquiz 2017, 100% of the schools that reached the final intend to take part in Euroquiz 2017-18.

Euroquiz creates an enthusiasm for learning, developing pupils' ability to work in teams and communicate effectively,



ultimately increasing their confidence and range of core skills. If you are interested in entering a team for Euroquiz 2017-18, schools receive information from their local organisers in the autumn term.

If you have any queries, please contact Jane Byers at Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET)

jane@seet.org.uk

Jane Byers, SEET



GTCS Excellence in Professional Learning Awards for Universities of Dundee and Glasgow

On 21 September 2017, the General Teaching Council for Scotland held its first Excellence in Professional Learning Awards ceremony at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow. The event also celebrated professional learning programmes that have been accredited with GTCS Professional Recognition. This included the University of Dundee for its Graduate Diplomas in French, German and Spanish by distance learning and the University of Glasgow for its Postgraduate Certificate 'Teaching and learning of Modern Languages in primary schools'. UCMLS Chair Marion Spöring said: "Universities in Scotland continue to play an important role in supporting teachers in promoting and sustaining the learning of languages in Scottish schools and the wider education sector."

Hannah Doughty, SCILT/UCMLS

Image courtesy of GTCS licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Help Lapin, star of Le Petit Monde puppet shows, jump from the stage to the page!

The 7 October 2017 saw the launch of the 'Lapin is hungry: Bilingual picture book for all' campaign. The campaign was launched by Le Petit Monde at l'Institut Francais d'Ecosse.

French native puppeteer and artistic director, Tania Czajka, introduced a delighted crowd of parents and children to her new bilingual picture book with a puppet show, featuring Lapin and his garden friends, followed by a reading of her handmade picture book. The event concluded with a picnic of raw carrots and broccoli (featured in the book) and yummy French croissants, of course!

"An amazing idea and a talented lady! My boys want the book already!" (Amina, mum of 3 and 5 year old boys)

After nearly 10 years touring in schools and theatres, Tania realised that bilingual

children's books had generally too much of the new language for learners and that even parents/ teachers found them difficult to use. She also struggled to find storybooks that told real stories.

So she wrote one!

Like her shows, 'Lapin is hungry' is bilingual, features lots of healthy food and, crucially, is accessible to all non-French speakers. Accompanied by an illustrated glossary, an audio version and a teaching pack, it will make a great resource for early years French lessons.

Tania and her team are currently crowdfunding to get 'Lapin is hungry' published.

Anyone can pledge, even schools. In exchange, Tania can come to your school

and perform a show, run a workshop and even give away signed copies of the book.

For more information on how to support this unique and exciting project, please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/lapin-bilingual-picturebook/ or contact Tania directly info@lepetitmonde.co.uk.

Tania Czajka, Le Petit Monde



Language Futures – opportunities for Scottish schools

Language Futures aims to broaden languages provision and promote linguistic diversity. It is currently being used by schools in England to develop a second or third language, both within the curriculum and during after school clubs. The programme has been trialled at a variety of levels, within secondary as well as at primary, across England and the Association for Language Learning (ALL) are looking to expand the scheme into Scotland.

Language Futures sees pupils choose the language they wish to study. There may be a number of languages being studied in any one classroom, with the teacher as facilitator: the teacher sets up the learning, but will not necessarily know all of the languages studied in the classroom. Mentors support pupils in their language

learning. Mentors are language proficient individuals from the community. The school is the base camp – it is not the sole place of learning – and pupils are encouraged to learn at home and in a variety of different places. Finally, pupils design, plan and carry out extended projects that aim to build knowledge and develop skills, to incorporate language learning and inter-cultural understanding and to connect learning to the real world.

ALL would be very interested to hear from primary and secondary schools interested in piloting the approach in Scotland. Schools can sign up at no cost. ALL have created resources and guidelines to support schools and these are open access on the ALL website (www.all-languages.org.uk/teaching/language-futures/resources-2/). If a school is interested, the Language

Futures project manager would be very happy to talk them through the approach by phone or Skype in the first instance. If a small group of schools was interested, ALL could explore support from a dedicated schools advisor who would visit schools to offer targeted support.

For further information, please contact the Language Futures project manager Clodagh Cooney.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation funds Language Futures and ALL have managed the scheme since summer 2015.

For more information visit the ALL website www.all-languages.org.uk/teaching/language-futures/.

Clodagh Cooney, ALL

LFEE update



GTC award, immersion courses, Primary Language Learning training, French family resource pack... it has been a busy and exciting few months here at LFEE.

Feeling proud GTCS Award

LFEE was delighted to receive a GTCS Professional Recognition Accredited Programme Award for its three-week French/Spanish immersion programmes and the 12-month languages immersion and methodology programme. This is following on from the course accreditation it received from GTCS three years earlier.

L3 language resource packs readymade and good to go... L3 Chinese

It has been wonderful to see a huge energy and enthusiasm for Chinese learning in Borrowfield and Monikie Primaries in Angus. The L3 Chinese pilot involved six lessons over six weeks. It focused on Chinese language and culture using stories, puppets and role-play. Feedback from all involved has been extremely positive, but don't take our word for it... tune into our YouTube channel to listen to learners and staff sharing the

Chinese buzz and be inspired www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvErTibHfo!

L3 Spanish

You can look forward to L3 Spanish planners and accompanying resources coming very soon. Please get in touch if you would like to have a look at what these will look like!

Immersion Courses

The LFEE team welcomed 143 teachers to both our primary and secondary immersion courses this summer in various locations across France and Spain. It was brilliant to see such energy and enthusiasm. Well done and thank you to all the teachers who spent one week (or three for secondary colleagues) of their holiday with us in Lyon, Salignac or Malaga. A recall day following this is taking place on the 20 January 2018 in Edinburgh and this follow-up offers GTCS accreditation. The secondary immersion courses in Malaga in July met the GTCS policy requirements for language residency. Feedback from immersion course participants is now available on our Facebook page or on our blog www.lfeeblog.net. Teachers can pre-register now for our courses starting in July 2018. Please email Ros at LFEE immersions@lfee.net.

We are now looking forward to welcoming 50 teachers from across Scotland on our one-week immersion courses in October in Lyon, Malaga and Montpellier.

Primary Language Learning

Following on from the huge success of French fun with literacy and numeracy training sessions delivered during the last academic session, PLL training will support practitioners to integrate language learning across a range of other curricular areas including STEM and Health and Wellbeing.

Our PLL classes (French, Spanish and German) resumed at the end of August. We have also started weekly twilight sessions with primary teachers in Fife and East Dunbartonshire.

Family learning: French fun for families in Fife

'Increased attainment', 'parents as active participants', 'added value for learners' – these were the big statements used to talk about the French family learning pilot project launched in April this year in Fife. More than 600 families enlisted on the course to complete six initial lessons and the option to complete 12 lessons in total. Find out more about the project on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Os2M84PXXk.

SCILT will be writing a case study on this pilot project in the coming months, so watch this space!

How could this work for you, your school or local authority? Get in touch to find out more

Find out more about our work and keep in touch by email info@lfee.net, on our website www.lfee.net, follow us on Twitter @LfeeEurope or visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/lfeeEurope.

Caroline Gordon, LFEE

Mathématiques sans frontières 2017

North Lanarkshire Council, in association with Heriot-Watt University, once again organised the 'Mathématiques sans frontières' competition across Scotland this year.

Some 53 teams from 28 schools took part in 'Mathématiques sans frontières', the maths competition that includes a languages twist.

The standard of responses was very high. Stewart's Melville College were winners in the S5 section and Mearns Castle High won the S4 section and the overall award.

Pupils received their prizes at a ceremony held in Heriot-Watt University, which included a mini-maths challenge as well as a lecture on the job of an actuary from Dr Gavin Reid. Thomas Chaurin from the Institut Français in Edinburgh presented the prizes.

Robert Dalzell, North Lanarkshire

Modern Language Assistants – sharing ideas



Are you hosting a British Council Modern Language Assistant (MLA)? There are project ideas available through Schools Online <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/> and on the MLA blog <http://mlas2016-17.blogspot.co.uk/>. Last year, one language assistant from France entered her S1 pupils in the Word Wizard competition (the first time they had done it

at that school), making it all the way to the final! The MLA's mentor teacher said, 'The progress in students' ability has been amazing. It was also surprising that it motivated pupils with varied academic abilities. All this would not have been possible without the help of the French assistant'.

Are you interested in applying for next year but don't have the budget? We have language assistant endorsement letters, flexible sharing arrangements and shorter-length placements available for 2017-18. It may be early in the year but it is great to get those conversations going! See more details on our website <https://www.britishcouncil.org/language-assistants/employ/support-and-next-steps> and of course, you can always email us for more information languageassistants.uk@britishcouncil.org.

Liz Neil, British Council

Passchendaele resource pack



The British Council in partnership with the Big Ideas Company has produced this resource pack to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele, which took place between July and November 1917.

It enables teachers to explore the First World War in their classrooms while also developing language skills through a series of creative, memorable and engaging activities. The pack is part of 'Passchendaele at home' www.bigideascompany.org/project/passchendaele-at-home/, a nationwide research-and-remember project inviting schools and community groups across the UK to discover servicemen buried or commemorated in the UK who were wounded at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

Teachers can download the pack from the School Online website https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/content/passchendaele_at_home.

Liz Neil, British Council

News from Goethe-Institut



© Goethe-Institut Glasgow

European Day of Languages

On 29 September 2017, the Goethe-Institut and the Alliance Française hosted European Day of Languages taster sessions in seven languages, with food from seven countries, live music and a quiz with international prizes. It was a great afternoon for those with an interest in languages and cultures! Our audience were delighted to learn Gaelic, French, German, Russian, Polish, Turkish and Danish and to test their knowledge about European countries. Roll on next year's European Day of Languages!

2018 – New Horizons

The Goethe-Institut will be working with secondary schools to promote languages and STEM. In collaboration with ESERO, the didactic branch of the European Space Agency, and the National STEM Learning Centre, we will be offering German language science workshops for schools, and we will be keeping a close eye on the mission of Alexander Gerst, the German astronaut who will go into space in May 2018. Find out more from the European Space Agency website www.esa.int/ger/ ESA_in_your_country/Germany/Neue_



© ESA/Steinbeis Beratungszentrum/Hochschule Darmstadt

[Horizonte_fuer_Alexander_Gerst.](#)
German is (not) rocket science!

The Language Magician

2018 will also be the year when 'The language magician' will be introduced in Scotland. It is an assessment tool for primary pupils' language skills in the form of an entertaining video game. The game will be fun for the children, build on their language and IT-skills and provide information on their progression. It will support teachers by giving them a tool to assess their pupils' abilities

using non-threatening testing methods and aims to increase the enjoyment of learning a language at this age.

The game centres around a young student magician striving to liberate his animal friends from an evil magician's curse. Pupils play the role of the student, with their own avatar, and the game is full of fun, excitement and surprises. Please see the project website for further information www.thelanguagemagician.net/.

Sabine Schlüter, Goethe-Institut



Cast the spell / © Goethe-Institut London

Our World



The Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET) has launched their S3-S6 film-making project for another year! Formerly known as Our Europe, the project will now run under the name Our World. Pupils chose the new title as it more fully represents the global citizenship themes within the project.

As always, the competition invites pupils to form teams of up to four and come up with a creative idea for a film that will use their languages, based on one of the given themes. This year's themes include:

- migration and welcome
- travel and leisure
- trade

Teams put their ideas in storyboard form and submit them to SEET by 4 December 2017 for consideration. The teams behind the 18 best entries are invited to one of three all-day, film-making workshops (to be held in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen) where they spend the day working with film-making professionals and SEET staff to turn their ideas into films. They will receive training on how to film and edit material and spend the day developing these skills while using their languages. Finally, teams come together for a première and awards ceremony where they can showcase

their films and receive recognition for their hard work throughout the process.

SEET has been running this free IDL project for the past five years and engagement amongst pupils and teachers has continued to increase throughout this time. Last year more than 600 pupils from across 13 local authorities took part in the initial storyboarding phase of the project. SEET aims to use Our World as a

means for teachers to engage pupils in language learning through the creative use of film-making. The skills development and global citizenship aspects of the project complement the work already happening in the classroom.

Of the pupils who made films last year:

- 88% said they were more likely to continue with their study of languages after taking part
- 97% said they felt more confident after taking part
- over half came from schools in the highest 0-10% of deprivation (based on SIMD)

If you would like to find out more about how to get involved, arrange an Our World session for your class, or register to take part please email: madeleine@seet.org.uk

Madeleine McGirk, SEET



RZSS Edinburgh Zoo's first Spanish day



Conservation charity the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) hosted its first Spanish school day on Thursday 8 June. Xabier San Isidro, Education Advisor from the Spanish Embassy Education Office, attended along with over 120 pupils from Preston Street and Sciennes Primaries and Larbert High.

This Spanish school day is part of RZSS's new education programme, 'Science in the language class'. The aim of this programme is to produce resources that will link language learning to RZSS conservation projects across the world, or to the conservation breeding programmes within RZSS zoos.

Xabier said: "I am thrilled to have been invited to this event. The day was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to engage with the language in completely new surroundings. I am thoroughly

impressed with how RZSS hosted such an informative Spanish-themed day at Edinburgh Zoo".

The classes enjoyed a short introduction to some of the global conservation fieldwork RZSS is responsible for in South America, including the Giant Armadillo Conservation Project in the Pantanal. Shortly after, pupils had a brief tour of some of the South American species in Edinburgh Zoo's collection. Before leaving, the schools received a free copy of the RZSS board game 'Especies en Peligro' (Endangered species). This game teaches children about some South American species, the threats they encounter and solutions to help safeguard them, while simultaneously developing their Spanish vocabulary.

Ross Anderson, teacher of P6 at Preston Street Primary, said: "It was an

excellent day. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were excited by the photo opportunity with Xabier. Even in the rain we all managed to have an absolute ball."

Following this success, RZSS Edinburgh Zoo have planned two more Spanish days for this autumn and these are now fully booked. We hope to have additional games and activities at these language days.

'Science in the language class' builds upon the success of RZSS's Beyond the Panda programme, which links to Chinese language learning. At present the 'Science in the language class' has resources in Chinese, Spanish and Japanese. French is due to launch in 2018.

Look out for more RZSS language days.

Sandie Robb, RZSS

‘Sing songs to learn Gaelic’, say education experts

Importance of music in language acquisition stressed as Mod gets underway

Learning a second language is easier when taught through music, was the message educators were giving out as the Royal National Mod got underway in Lochaber. As the children’s competitions began, the team involved in teaching a new generation of Gaelic learners stressed the importance of using song whenever possible to maximise the chances of getting that new language to stick.

Jackie Mullen, a consultant trainer for the Go!Gaelic programme, run by Gaelic educational resources organisation Stòrlann, has seen first-hand how effective music is as a learning tool.

Go!Gaelic includes a comprehensive programme of resources to teach Gaelic to children in English medium education <https://go-gaelic.scot/>. Go!Gaelic also incorporates an 18-day training programme aimed at teachers who want to learn Gaelic in order to teach it in the classroom.

Jackie delivers some of the training programmes and recent events in the classroom have reinforced her belief that using music and song improves the chances of language learning success for both adults and children.

She recalled day four of the 18-day programme, when a cohort of teachers were trying to learn introductory questions. They had been taught the questions in Gaelic and were being asked to recall them. Jackie noticed they had no trouble remembering the questions they had learnt in song form, but struggled with the others.

These findings are supported by research, including a study from California State University (Medina, 2002), which found that music helps students acquire a second language for a number of reasons. Mainly because it is enjoyable, music relaxes learners, lessens inhibitions and makes learners more attentive and receptive to learning a second language. The songs themselves usually contain authentic examples of the language and success in singing boosts confidence.

Donald W Morrison, Stòrlann chief executive, said: “Gaelic language and its associated art forms of story and song make for a rich trove of material for learners. Many of the competitors at the Mod will have commenced on their own personal journey to Gaelic fluency through songs and music. Go!Gaelic uses the fun learning tool of the song to good advantage. A collection of 20 catchy little numbers carry the core vocabulary to the learner’s mind and, through the added rhythm and rhyme, it tends to stay there. In a sense, our young learners sing the language into their own heads and by so doing — in corridors, cars and kitchens — they pass the songs on.”

Katie Laing, GoGaelic!

Medina, S L (2002). Using Music to Enhance Second Language Acquisition: From Theory to Practice. In J Lalas and S Lee (Eds), Language, literacy and academic development. Pearson Educational Publishing.

Using eTwinning to engage language learners

In a recent video, Sarah McColm, languages teacher at St Luke’s High, gives a fascinating insight into how she uses eTwinning in the classroom.

On a personal level, Sarah likes to connect with people and eTwinning allows her to get to know other teachers and learn from them, particularly from an ICT and pedagogy point of view. She also gets a great reaction from the pupils, and it fosters a real passion for languages in them.

Sarah talks about how eTwinning has helped to instil a sense of citizenship and cultural awareness in her pupils. It was important for them to appreciate that, in spite of all our differences, we are all very similar. Professionally, Sarah talks about the use

of ICT as a learning and teaching tool to enhance experiences in the classroom. eTwinning provides the ability to connect with native speakers and was a resource that could not be passed up!

Sarah has used eTwinning to develop the four core skills of talking, listening, reading and writing. Pupils have developed their ICT skills, using apps for tablets and smartphones. They have done a lot of writing to their partner school pupils, and made good use of the eTwinning online tools such as audio and video conferencing where they listen and talk to their European partners. Pupils also do a lot of reading of the articles and information shared by the partner schools.



Sarah has found eTwinning to be an excellent way to engage her pupils in the classroom. The ICT element and real live audience has increased their sense of purpose. They were writing to share their own experiences and to get to know other people.

Watch the whole interview courtesy of the Swedish eTwinning National Agency <https://youtu.be/qztywbcz2mk>.

Liz Neil, British Council

Languages beyond school

Languages and law



Clare O'Toole was a CISS Scholar from 2015-2016 and is now a Law with Spanish student at the University of Glasgow. She continues to study Chinese in addition to her university course, through classes at the University of Strathclyde, run by CISS.

What languages have you learned?

At the end of primary school, I started learning Spanish and continued that all the way through school to Advanced Higher. In sixth year, I crashed Higher French and National 4 Mandarin. During sixth year, I won a scholarship through the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools to study Chinese in Tianjin for a year.

How have language skills helped you?

When studying a language, you are always encouraged to speak it as much as you can. This has really helped with my confidence. Speaking to anyone, particularly natives of the language you are learning, in a language that you are not completely comfortable in, can be daunting and takes a bit of courage. This has made me more outgoing and a much better public speaker, which helps me when I participate in moots.

What benefits do you think language skills bring?

The biggest benefit for me personally is being able to connect with people from other countries and cultures. Particularly when I was living in China, with my Thai and Vietnamese classmates, Chinese was the language we had in common. Knowing Chinese helped me make friends from all over the world.

Do you have any advice for anyone considering learning a language?

The best advice is just to throw yourself into it. Sometimes, especially if a language sounds completely different to your own, the pronunciation or tones will be tricky but don't be afraid of sounding silly and just try! Also, do not be put off by languages that some people perceive as 'too difficult'. All languages have their difficult elements but all languages also have elements that you will understand and pick up easily.

Inspire your pupils with SCILT's Job Profiles and look at the range of careers where language skills have proved to be valuable www.scilt.org.uk/Business/Jobprofilesandcareers.aspx.

Looking for interesting contexts?

SCILT/CISS is now in its fourth year of the 'Language Linking Global Thinking' programme. The aim of the programme is to provide real, interesting, up-to-date contexts for language learning by linking a class in Scotland to a student on a year abroad. The students write blogs that provide rich pickings for teachers who want to introduce or revise vocabulary in refreshing, stimulating contexts, or who want to enhance the cultural context of language learning for their class.

A school's experience: Torphins Ted

Last year, to support the implementation of the 1+2 Approach in our school, I applied for a Language Linking Global Thinking link student. I had no idea what to expect but we definitely landed on our feet with Antonia Uri.

Our P6 class was the link here in school, and Antonia came out to see us before she went on her travels. We gave her our Torphins Ted to take with her. Antonia spent time in Valencia in Spain and Blois in France, and throughout the year, she sent us PowerPoints with lots of cultural and fun facts about these places. She themed these as Ted's Adventures and focused everything around pictures of what he was up to and where. She also sent us a soft toy bull from Spain and the children had a competition finding out about Spanish names and deciding what to call him – he is Diego Esteban. She also sent the children newspapers, Spanish sweets and a game about French famous landmarks, all of which the children loved. This really added to the experience. We used her PowerPoints as stimuli for class lessons and shared them with the whole school at assemblies to let everybody follow Ted's Adventures. At the end of the year, she came back to see us, and the children presented her with Torphins Ted 2, a bear of her own for her next adventure.

Antonia helped bring the reason behind learning a language to life for the children and increased their enthusiasm. She

is young and the children could see the great adventures she was having in another country, learning another language, and she created the aspiration that they could do it in the future too because, like them, she went to an Aberdeenshire rural school.

Thank you so much to SCILT for providing this opportunity. It has been fabulous.

Elaine Ross, Torphins Primary

The year abroad blog

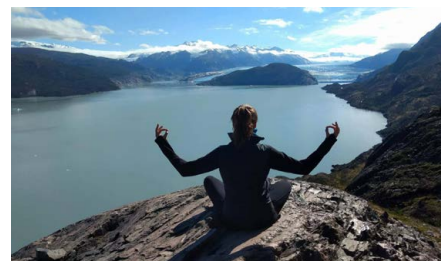
Natasha Robinson took part in the project for session 2016-17 and was in Chile with Project Trust. She was linked with Glen Urquhart High and Balnain Primary in Highland.

When I finished school, I decided to take a break from my studies and volunteered with the Scottish charity Project Trust. I worked in a small rural primary school in the Chilean Andes.

I had heard about SCILT's Language Linking Global Thinking programme and decided to join and set up a link between the S3 class at my former school, Glen Urquhart High, and Escuela San Alfonso, where I would be teaching in Chile. I visited the S3 Spanish class at Glen Urquhart. We had a brainstorming session to find out what they were interested in about Chile and the main topics that came up were culture, food and traditions.

I started a blog documenting what I was doing at the school, in my holidays and free time. The pupils in Scotland read and responded to the posts, curious about life in Chile. The teachers at Balnain Primary also read it to their pupils.

I helped my 5th to 8th grade classes send Christmas cards to the pupils in Scotland. When we received replies, the children were so excited and enthusiastic that we



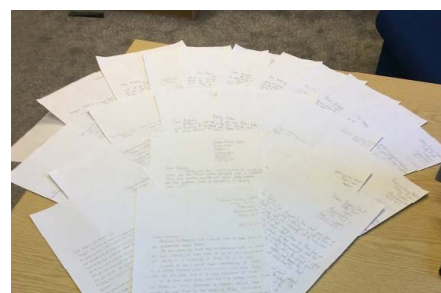
decided to set up a pen pal scheme. We sent letters between the schools focusing on topics like Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

I can tell that both the pupils in Scotland and my pupils in Chile loved the exchange. I believe it is so important that young people learn about the lives of others around the world and appreciate the similarities and differences in their cultures.

I am grateful SCILT gave me the opportunity to create this link between my old school and the one in Chile. I am very proud of what we achieved and I hope next year's volunteers in Escuela San Alfonso carry on the pen pal exchange.

For a flavour of the spice, colour and fun that this project can bring into your classrooms, while challenging your pupils and raising their cultural awareness, visit the students' blogs on the SCILT website www.scilt.org.uk/BeyondSchool/LanguageLinkingGlobalThinking.aspx.

Meryl James and Janette Kelso, SCILT



Contact Us

SCILT
LH-232 Lord Hope Building
University of Strathclyde
141 St James Road
Glasgow, G4 0LT
Tel: 0141 444 8163
Email: scilt@strath.ac.uk

www.scilt.org.uk

At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.

