



SCILT News

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New SCILT website

SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages, has launched its new website. We hope that the new structure of this website will make it easier to navigate and help teachers find their favourite content more easily. The content is now arranged according to the stages of CfE: from early years through to the senior phase and beyond, to include lifelong learning. Within each level you will find classroom resources, resources to use to promote the importance of language learning, opportunities to celebrate languages, essential planning resources and support, as well as information on CPL, career-long professional learning.

There are new sections of the site which we hope will support language learners at all stages of their learning, both at school and beyond, with sections for adult learners and for parents who want to support their child's language learning. We also have a section for school managers with key information on the importance of language learning as well as related official documents. There is also a section on languages and business, which includes opportunities for schools to link with businesses to further highlight the relevance of language learning to pupils.

Over the months ahead we plan to further develop the information, resources and support available for teachers through the new site, in particular as the 1+2 languages agenda gains momentum. This support will include resources to aid planning such as audit tools, sample approaches and case studies.



Research remains a very important part of SCILT's work priorities, and the research available on the old SCILT website, including the Scottish Languages Review, will be made available on the new site over the coming months. As with the rest of the content on the new site, it will be organised by the level of language learning to which it relates, and will be found under the related tab.

The new SCILT website is still very much a work in progress, so watch this space!

Visit the new SCILT website – www.scilt.org.uk

SCILT has moved!

SCILT has moved into the newly refurbished Lord Hope building at the city centre campus of the University of Strathclyde.

Our new contact details are:

LH-232 Lord Hope Building
University of Strathclyde
141 St James Road
Glasgow, G4 0LT

Tel: 0141 444 8163 • Email: scilt@strath.ac.uk • Website: www.scilt.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to our new offices!



Editorial

Dear Readers,

With the winter nights drawing in, what more could you want than to curl up on the sofa with your iPad/tablet or whatever other electronic gizmo you have, and access our latest SCILT newsletter, jam-packed with heartening languages stories from across Scotland? So where have the last six months gone? We may not have seen much sunshine since the last newsletter but we've certainly seen a flurry of activities and developments which are pushing languages to the top of the national agenda.

Since the publication of the Languages Working Group Report: **"Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach"** in May, and even before the official government response, schools and local authorities up and down the country have been exploring what this will mean for them. SCILT and Education Scotland have identified and visited possible pilot schools with 9 pilots confirmed to date. These cover early years, primary, the broad general education and the senior phase, and include French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Gaelic. Some are focusing on the report's first recommendation about starting from Primary 1, whilst others are thinking about how to bring in a second language, perhaps through Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL). You'll find the details in the summary box below. Please note, there are still some elements pending final confirmation. SCILT and Education Scotland are liaising with these schools, offering them advice and support, and, together with the staff involved, we will evaluate the projects so that we can all learn lessons from them. SCILT presented at the Scottish Learning Festival on "1+2" and is offering "1+2" workshops as part of this year's professional learning menu. In addition, we have created a dedicated web space on our new website and will be developing this further as the year progresses. We're also helping you get your heads round the new SQA languages qualifications – another milestone that has now been successfully reached with the final documents for National 2 – Higher now published.

Thanks to additional government support, I am delighted to have a larger team to work with you in delivering this new

vision for language learning, with additional Professional Development Officers and a Depute Director. In case you haven't had the privilege of meeting the new staff yet, you can read their interviews in this newsletter. Together, we are taking forward a number of innovative work-strands this year with new competitions for learners such as the National Spelling Bee, dedicated support for helping schools link with business, as well as exciting projects in the pipeline to link science and languages and to create a national network of Ambassadors to come and talk to your pupils. I, for one, have thoroughly enjoyed reading about what schools, local authorities and our ever-supportive cultural organisations are doing to promote a multicultural, multilingual Scotland – there's something here for everyone, so read on and be inspired!

Sarah Breslin, Director

	Authority	School	Pilot details
1	Aberdeenshire	Tough Primary	Bringing in French from P1 and Chinese, via IDL, from P4
2	Dundee City	Hillside Primary and other primaries in cluster	French from P1
3	Highland	Lochyside Primary	French and Gaelic
4	Angus	Langlands Primary	French from P1 and possibly German via IDL
5	South Lanarkshire	St. Elizabeth's Primary	Spanish from P1 with the possibility of French IDL project for P7
6	Glasgow	Dalmarnock Primary and Nursery	Spanish, Italian and French. Looking at how to ensure progression across different languages at different stages
7	Shetland Islands	Anderson High	Spanish and Norwegian. Introduction of L3 within the BGE. Norwegian in response to real local business need. Working towards new Languages for Life and Work award.
8	Stirling	St. Modan's High	Increasing the relevance of languages through business links in French German and Spanish for S2 and S5
9	Fife	Madras College	French and Chinese. Ways to ensure progression from BGE to qualifications in the Senior Phase

SCILT News

Delivering Professional Learning across Scotland

In this year of creativity, the SCILT team has been all over the country working with teachers from all sectors. The workshops have had a particular focus on sharing and developing creative approaches to learning and teaching, including ideas for planning from the BGE into the senior phase, motivating the more reluctant learners and using film as a means of developing language skills. Indeed, we can offer events from a menu of twenty different workshops and there is no charge other than travelling expenses.



As always we are impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the language teaching community who fully embrace opportunities for professional learning.

The team members have a wide range of expertise and experience across all sectors that they can share at our professional learning events and we have received very positive feedback from attendees. Our menu options all offer practical ways of making a huge impact in the classroom and can be tailored to meet local needs.

If you have identified your professional learning needs and you would like to have them met in an informative and creative way, then please see the SCILT website for the menu of professional learning opportunities and details of how to book.

SCILT website Outreach programme - <http://bitly.com/WXzjMr>

SCILT News

European Day of Languages 2012



We are delighted to be able to announce the 2012 winners of SCILT's annual European Day of Languages competition.

Firstly, we would like to say a huge *Merci, Gracias, Danke, Grazie* and *спасибо* and to all the schools who took part this year. Competition criteria focused on creativity and innovation, pupil voice and responsibility, interdisciplinary learning and partnership working.

From the entries it was clear to see that school EDL celebrations across the country involved a whole host of external partners, including parents, businesses, cultural organisations and universities. Activities included treasure hunts, food tastings, construction tasks, dances, quizzes and all round cultural and language boosting fun!



Drum roll please! The winners of our EDL 2012 Competition are:

Category	Place	School	Celebration
Primary	1st, £500 voucher	Glasgow Academy Prep	The Ambassadors Project
Primary	2nd, £300 voucher	Battlefield Primary School	European Challenge Game Show
S1-3	1st, £500 voucher	Jordanhill School	European Day of Languages
Senior Phase	= 1st, £500 voucher	Madras College	Languages Need You!
Senior Phase	= 1st, £500 voucher	All Saints Secondary School	EDL IDL Event

We always love to hear from schools about what they are doing to promote and celebrate language learning, so please remember to get in touch with us at any time throughout the year. If you do need a special reason to celebrate language learning, then 21st February 2013 is International Mother Tongue Day, 9th May 2013 is Europe Day and of course European Day of Languages comes around again on 26th September 2013!

Many thanks and congratulations to the prize winners as well as all the other competitors from the SCILT team! You will be able to find out more about the winners' entries, and what other schools across Scotland did to celebrate EDL 2012 on the EDL 2012 blog, coming soon...

Lynne Jones, Professional Development Officer, SCILT

Spelling Bee



This year, for the first time, SCILT is offering schools the chance to take part in a National Spelling Bee competition.

The Spelling Bee competition was started by Jane Driver of Comberton Village College in South Cambridgeshire, as part of the Routes into Languages programme*. Jane wanted to

address the problem of encouraging Year 7 pupils (equivalent to S1 in Scotland) to learn vocabulary, and have fun at the same time.

The project proved to be such a success that it was adopted nationally by Routes into Languages in England and Wales. The project went on to win a European Language Label Award, and is now sponsored by the European Commission.

SCILT was so impressed by the reports of improved motivation

(particularly among boys), enhanced language performance, and attitudes to learning and self-evaluation, that it decided to offer Scottish schools the opportunity to participate this year, as part of a pilot project.

Forty-four schools in nineteen authorities across Scotland have taken up the offer and have now registered to take part. Pupils in S1 French, German and Spanish classes across the country are now battling it out with their classmates in an attempt to gain a prestigious place in the final, which will take place in June.

In future years we hope to involve more schools, set up heats in local authorities as well as schools, and perhaps eventually take part in a UK-wide final.

**Routes into Languages is a consortium of universities working together with schools and colleges in England and Wales to enthuse and encourage people to study languages. It is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and is led by the LLAS Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, in partnership with the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML) and CILT, the National Centre for Languages.*

SCILT News

FLA Project Initiative 2011-12: FLAs make their mark

The British Council Scotland and SCILT launched the FLA Project Initiative last year as part of our partnership, and held a very successful showcase event as part of the University's 'Engage with Strathclyde' week on 30 April 2012. Several FLA projects involved collaboration with other subject departments (Drama, Home Economics, Geography, IT, and Music). The final project 'products' were eclectic in range and included a wall display, newspaper supplement, subtitled sequence from a soap opera, fashion show, supplementary resource booklet for a Higher reading text, language taster session for a whole year group, language day, the public performance of a self-composed song, and the creation of regional dishes.

Chinese 'Great Wall'
Zeng Miqun, Our Lady's High School, North Lanarkshire

Short Description

- an exhibition of Chinese language and culture and pupils' works

Tasks

- introduce pupils to different topics of Chinese language and culture, e.g. Basic Mandarin, Chinese tea culture, Chinese Festivals, Chinese sports, etc.
- display pupils' works on school walls produced in Mandarin classes.



S3 German School of Rock
Jochen Rehm, George Heriot's School

Short Description

- Pupils write their own lyrics in German and compose their own song

Tasks

- Introduce pupils to different aspects of German music culture, e.g. famous bands, important songs.
- Make pupils more conscious about song-writing
- Guide the pupils in writing their own song and lyrics in German
- Increase the pupils' confidence in using the German language



A couple of FLAs were instrumental in establishing twinning links with a school abroad. First indications are that the initiative has impacted positively on pupil motivation and self-confidence, but also on the way that FLAs experience their year in Scotland. You can read more about the projects, the individual project 'journey' of FLAs and the evaluation report at the links provided. Buoyed by the success of the first year, the British Council Scotland and SCILT are continuing with the project initiative during the current session.

Project Initiative case studies - http://tiny.cc/FLA_projects2011

Project Initiative evaluation - http://tiny.cc/FLA_ProjectEvaluation2011

Scottish Languages Review: Issue 25 online now

Petra McLay reports on a rewarding intercultural awareness raising project involving pupils from Scotland and Germany whilst **Lesley Young** enthuses about her new approach to teaching listening skills to her French Higher class. **Laurence Giraud-Johnstone** found that getting her students to keep personal development plans helped them recognise and value the range of skills they were learning during their year abroad. Both **Sarah Williams** and **Jane Medwell**, **Katherine Richardson** and **Li Li** were involved in co-teaching projects between native English and native Chinese teachers – but whereas Sarah was teaching English in China, Jane and her colleagues were researching the teaching of Chinese in the UK. The two articles make for illuminating reading – and bring us back to the key importance of intercultural awareness!

Last but not least, there is a short contribution from **Shona Hugh** on the Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages from her perspective as a teacher, assessor and external verifier for the Interdisciplinary Project. In our **abstracts** section, you will find links to relevant articles from academic journals, some of which are available to download without subscription.



Check out forthcoming **events** October 2012 – October 2013.

You can download the whole issue in one easy click or go to each article / section separately.

Scottish Languages Review Issue 25 - <http://bit.ly/ROGYcK>

News from Local Authorities



My Comenius Story – Making an Impact

I decided to apply as a Comenius foreign language assistant (FLA) because I believe that as an FLA you have the great opportunity to gain insights into another country's educational system. This is exactly what happened to me during the ten months I spent in Scotland where I was an FLA at the bilingual Gaelic School in Glasgow.

For me, as a future EFL (English as a foreign language) teacher, the possibility to work and live in an English-speaking country has been very rewarding. During my year at the Gaelic School I had the chance to reflect and develop the theoretical and practical teaching skills I had acquired during my studies, including the promotion of minority languages and multilingualism. At the Gaelic school I had the unique opportunity to experience teaching in an authentic bilingual environment. Due to my personal background growing up with two languages (German and Finnish), of which I studied only one at school (German), I am fascinated how Gaelic is being actively used and promoted. Apparently Gaelic is easily acquired by children starting their Gaelic education in the nursery or primary - thanks to the support and guidance of the great primary school staff - but unfortunately working at the Gaelic School did not help me pick up Gaelic as easily. Gaelic is quite different from all other languages I have studied before. I was given the chance to do so during Gaelic lunch lessons. I acquired some Gaelic phrases, with which I can not only impress my friends back home but also many Scottish people: Madainn mhath! Is mise Eva. 'S ann à Suòmaidh cuideachd a' Ghearmailt a tha mi. Tha mi a' fuireach ann an Glaschu. Chan eil mi pòsta. (Good morning! I am Eva. I am from Finland as well as Germany. I stay in Glasgow. I am not married.)

Before I came to Glasgow I hoped that the assistantship would enable me to function as a real life model of a multicultural and multilingual European as I wanted to increase the awareness of my students that speaking foreign languages makes a difference. They already speak two languages, so why not make it three, four, five ... It was very inspiring to see how interested the young learners were about Germany and its culture. These positive encounters with the learners at the Gaelic school motivated me to continuously promote the German language and culture despite the dramatic decline of German language teaching in Scotland. As many students have never been to Germany or to Finland, nor have any German-Finnish friends, I saw myself as an ambassador of this European community. Hopefully some of my students feel inspired to follow my footsteps and venture abroad.

Eva Malessa, FLA, Glasgow Gaelic School



Inspiration and development: interdisciplinary project in Art combined with French language and culture

I was invited to accompany a group of S1 pupils on a Modern Languages trip to Calais. As a teacher who speaks elementary French, but who has an interest in French culture, I was delighted to join the pupils and staff. I was intrigued to observe how the pupils engaged with the use of language and I was soon shaking the dust off my own French and making mistakes and gaining confidence alongside the pupils.

When I returned to school, I wanted to try to continue the link as some of the pupils whom I'd accompanied to Calais were in my two S2 classes. I began to greet the pupils in French when they arrived for Art, and sometimes gave simple instructions in French during the lessons. The pupils were encouraged to use their own French when they could. At first they were puzzled as to why French was being spoken outside the Modern Languages corridor. There were a number who were reluctant to respond, and a couple of pupils who refused outright to try. I had to introduce an incentive at this stage. I started a points system and bacon rolls (their choice) were duly enjoyed at the end of the first term. The artwork was based, at first, on iconic Parisian landmarks. As the lessons progressed we began to incorporate some French text into the work. I had made a compilation of French music which I sometimes played as we worked. They became familiar with it and one particular track caught the attention of a few of the pupils. Two pupils chose to use a line from the lyrics in their work. The sentiment had attracted these particular girls, and so I thought that love letters or billets doux might be the way to go next. Hilarious results emerged as romance was expressed and interpreted artistically in quite a different way when some of the boys engaged in this theme.

I wanted the pupils to see their work elevated and displayed in a professional manner and to develop some extension work in the process. I approached the French Institute and they were extremely helpful in offering us their lovely venue in Edinburgh for an exhibition. Organising the private viewing, or vernissage, and the hanging of the work proved to be an opportunity for pupils to gain skills in enterprise.

Watching the cross fertilisation of different skill sets which culminate in a common goal is always satisfying. I feel that this kind of teaching allows me to get to know pupils much better and I have thoroughly enjoyed the project. I hope that the exhibition was well received and that the pupils felt proud of their achievements. Perhaps, more importantly, I hope that the self-confidence of the pupils has increased, and that seeds of aspiration have been planted.

Alison Ferguson, Perth Academy

More information - <http://www.ifecosse.org.uk/18-29-June-Art-exhibition-by-S2.html?lang=en>

News from Local Authorities

Über die Grenze ist es nur ein Schritt



Braidhurst High had the pleasure of hosting a German theatre performance organised by the Goethe-Institut. Pupils studying Higher German in schools throughout North Lanarkshire Council were invited to view the play 'Über die Grenze ist es nur ein Schritt', written by the acclaimed German

director Michael Müller and starring German actors Janna Lena Koch and Patrick Abozen. The play tells the story of an African youngster who has been living in Germany for five years. However, when it emerges that he and his family are living in the country illegally, the situation threatens to get out of control. It is a tragic, yet comic, German play for young people and draws attention to issues such as migration as well as exploring themes relevant to young people, such as identity, dreams and the search for self - issues which are just as relevant and important in the UK as they are in Germany and beyond.

Pupils engaged in a follow up question and answer session with the actors and director themselves, and thereafter divided into groups to take part in three workshops, focusing on the topics of 'Characters and Plot', 'On the Run' and 'Friends and Family' in order to further develop the pupils' comprehension of the play and their linguistic competencies in German.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and made use of the opportunity to improve their German listening and speaking skills, as well as making new friends from other schools.

Interdisciplinary Learning and Chinese



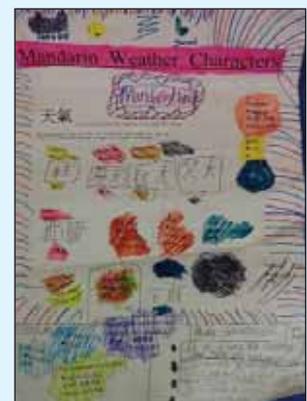
My class is a mixture of P6 and P7 pupils and includes children with English as a foreign language, children with support for learning requirements and children with speech and language challenges. By using an interdisciplinary approach to learning I can meet the needs of all of the children in my class.

Through an introductory lesson on Chinese culture I quickly learned that the class were motivated, engaged and hungry to find out more. Therefore, I decided to base our global studies topic around China. The class are very creative and with the use of a new iPad we decided, as a class, to create our own travel guide. The class were split into groups, they decided on their roles and then they went about researching a tourist attraction or event in some of the major cities in China.

As well as the travel guide I have been teaching some very basic Mandarin characters. This keeps the children engaged and motivated. It is a challenge to keep up with their requests! Starting with numbers, we have very quickly moved on to months, days of the week and time.

The children used their research and the Mandarin lessons to create a short role-play to be filmed for a whole class travel guide. Their mini movies consist of a weather forecast using Mandarin characters as well as their own research about a major tourist attraction. Homework is always a challenge! However, as the children were 'hungry' for new information about China, the quantity and quality of homework quickly shot through the roof. The children have been visiting the local library, using the internet and creating collages/ fact books in their own time.

I have also been very fortunate that our school art and music specialists were delighted to be involved in our China topic. The art specialist has created some fantastic Chinese images and the music specialist has introduced Chinese musical instruments as well as Chinese traditional music. I am absolutely devastated that we have to move on to a new topic next term. The children would gladly study Chinese culture all day, every day, if given the choice.



Gemma Adams, Granton Primary School

News from Local Authorities

Language Awareness Day



Glenniffer High School in Paisley recently held a Languages Awareness event. The school was fortunate enough to have three guest speakers who all spoke of how learning a foreign language had helped them in their respective careers. All S3 pupils in the school took part in the event and each of the pupils attended three workshops.

Pupils first saw a presentation on the importance of learning a foreign language and of how this can enhance your chances getting a job and increase your earning power. The materials for this were provided by SCILT and were convincing for the pupils before they heard from one of our guest speakers in groups of twenty.

The first speaker, Mr Jim Chalmers, spoke of his passion for learning languages and of how this had helped him in his publishing career. Mr Chalmers, a Glasgow University Language graduate, now runs his own publishing company. As a parent of a pupil in the school, he was extremely supportive of the school's aim to promote language learning and was an excellent role model for pupils.

The second speaker, a former pupil, Craig Scott, is now doing an engineering apprenticeship with Babcocks. At the time of the event, Craig was attending a series of German language classes before being sent to Germany for 2 months by his company. Having studied German at school, Craig felt that he has a great advantage over the other apprentices and conveyed this in a positive and lively manner to our S3 pupils.

The third speaker, Mr Ken Lindsay, is the International Brand Ambassador for Chivas Brothers, the well-known whisky exporter based in Paisley. His experience of dealing with foreign clients whilst promoting a very Scottish product was humorous and informative. By the end of his talk many of the pupils were keen to be involved in marketing and were beginning to see how useful their language skills would be. The evaluation of this event convinced Principal Teacher, Mrs Helen McMunn, that this should be an annual event. "Pupils really felt that they had learned something from the day and almost all of them said that they would be more likely to consider continuing with languages as a result of the information they received" - a great success!

Rona Quinn, Glenniffer High School

European Day of Languages



Off to a Flying Start!

3 pupils in South Ayrshire got off to a flying start this year as they celebrated European Day of Languages in Prestwick Airport. Schools wanted to target this year group to encourage pupils to continue with a language in S4, and worked with Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce to run an event with local businesses to show pupils the relevance of language learning.

Speakers included a French rugby player, a pilot who is now an undergraduate studying French at Glasgow University, a manager from IBM and employees of IBM from Germany and Spain.

SCILT provided workshops in German and Spanish, whilst also addressing the many reasons why languages play a significant role in our lives:

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."
(Nelson Mandela)

Helen Whitelaw, an undergraduate at Glasgow University reading French (and a qualified pilot!) later wrote of the day:

"It was great ... to have been involved in the European Day of Languages. I found it a great experience, especially meeting and talking to the pupils and the language teachers who came along. It's just a pity that not more language students at Glasgow took the opportunity. I have been telling them about it and how worthwhile it was, so hopefully some of those in Junior Honours will think about volunteering next year."

Pupils' Feedback

- "We learnt a lot!" (Belmont Academy)*
- "It was great hearing from real life and real life experiences" (Kyle Academy)*
- "I learnt that there are opportunities everywhere if you learn a second language. It was brilliant!" (Marr College)*
- "The event was good and inspirational and I will learn a language in order to get a good job." (Girvan Academy)*
- "Friendly people! Enjoyed it! Above average!" (Queen Margaret Academy)*
- "Fun and interesting! Very interesting speaking to people with experience." (Ayr Academy)*
- "You don't need to be in a class to learn French" (Girvan Academy)*
- "Great fun! I learnt a lot about languages and their cultures!" (Prestwick Academy)*

Meryl James, Professional Development Officer, SCILT

European Day of Languages

Chinese Taster Session

Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, University of Strathclyde



For the EDL, CISS was invited to give a taste of Chinese to any interested parties at University of Strathclyde. On the day, 20 participants turned up from across the university, including undergraduates, tutors and professors.

The taster aimed to achieve the following:

- Raise awareness of the nature of Chinese language – how it “works”
- Demonstrate how inextricably linked culture and language are
- Show how accessible Chinese can be for learners

The evaluations were encouraging, and reflected what we had hoped to achieve:

“Loved that it was interactive! Gave me a great insight on how to teach language in a classroom.”
“I feel inspired to learn Mandarin, it is a very smart language!” Omar Kettlewell (BEd)
“Really enjoyable. Well delivered and unimidating. An encouraging session with lots of involvement.”
Fiona Campbell (BEd (3))
“The involvement of the audience was effective. The variety of different aspects of Mandarin helped inspire.”
Rick Whitelock (BEd)
“This was a very enjoyable session – very well delivered!”
“The pacing of the input was very effective, giving a good introduction to the basics.” David Roxburgh (Tutor, BEd)
“Interesting, involved all people. Structure of language – good.” Paul Chambers, Senior Lecturer, Physics
“Brilliant, practical session; feel like I am going away having learnt something new and with a new found interest in Chinese culture and Mandarin. Very informative and well explained so easy to follow along.” Emma Grundy, (BEd (3))

Meryl James, Professional Development Officer, SCILT

EDL celebrations in St. Ambrose High School, North Lanarkshire



The S2 Modern Languages Ambassadors pioneered the European Day of Languages celebrations at St Ambrose High. They organised a ‘Zumbathon’ with donations being made for the Mary’s Meals projects in the EU countries of Ukraine, Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina. Pupils worked their way to lunchtime fitness to Latin-inspired tracks and sampled salsa, merengue and samba dancing. They were led in their routines by Miss Lawrie, the PE teacher, and they were accompanied by the Modern Languages staff, SMT, RE, Support for Learning and S5 Higher Spanish volunteers. The carnival atmosphere was there for all to see and a cheque for £91.79 will be winging its way to Dalmally and the Mary’s Meals organisation. The Ambassadors set themselves an initial target of feeding ONE EU child in the project for a year and ended up raising enough to feed NINE!! Well done, Ambassadors!

Angela Boyd, St Ambrose High School

EDL Celebrations at Abronhill High School, North Lanarkshire



All S1 & S2 pupils were invited to join in our 5th year of celebrations for European Day of Languages in the Modern Languages Department of Abronhill High School. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in the ‘Euro Quiz’ and food tasting at lunchtime. This included foods from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Greece, Poland amongst others. Pupils also received ‘goody bags’ and our quiz winners also received prizes. The evaluation of the event shows pupils really enjoyed the day with feedback comments such as:

‘It was brilliant, very cultural and educating’
‘I really enjoyed trying foods that I haven’t tried before’
‘Please, do it again next year’

Thanks to all staff and pupils who took part in the event.

Colette O’Neill, Abronhill High School

European Day of Languages

Brae High School, Shetland



Despite our isolated location as the most northerly high school in the UK, this does not prevent us from fully embracing the European Day of Languages. It is a day to promote the importance of language learning to our geographically isolated pupils, through enjoyment and exploration. The ML department has coordinated subject-specific activities to encompass and embrace cross-curricular working, with languages highlighted as an important asset to an integrated education. Skills and knowledge are transferred

from one curricular area to others, so pupils can actively see the benefits of applying their skills. Also, colleagues get the opportunity to showcase their diverse and sometimes surprising talents!

Timetabling issues have seen a sharp decline in the number of pupils continuing with language learning after S2. Faced with a challenge, the ML department decided to take active steps to try to “recover” our pupils. The European Day of Languages provided us with the framework upon which to hang our promotion. From this we planned promotional activities, thus informing pupils of the doors that language skills can help open in our global environment. Being able to communicate with others is vitally important. A more proactive and overt approach to skills acquired and the effective application of an additional language in the workplace was something concrete to which our pupils could relate. Tourism and travel to the islands evidence this by the ever increasing influx of foreign workers and cruise liners to our shores. Actively engaging pupils in discussions about the relevance of language learning and how it can directly affect their lives is beginning to have benefits.

The moral of this story is that, even in the most remote areas in Britain, language learning can be promoted effectively as a viable, relevant and important tool. Therefore we, at least, believe that monolingualism is indeed curable!

Beverley Muldoon,
PT Languages, Brae High School

EDL celebrations at Gleniffer High School, Renfrewshire



Gleniffer High School celebrated the European Day of Languages in style ... and tucked into a delicious cake to celebrate. To mark the day, a quiz about Europe tested the knowledge of S2 pupils and covered topics such as flags, sport, history, famous people and food.

Pupils also held a bake sale to help fund an educational visit to the Hans Boeckler Schule in Paisley’s twin town of Furth, which will take place in December this year. Cakes for the sale were prepared by pupils studying Higher French, German and Spanish as well as those going on the trip to Germany.



A special cake displaying the European flags was raffled and, after much excitement, the prize was won by Social Subjects teacher, Gavin Bilsland.

In all £370 was raised during the event and this will go towards the trip to Furth. The trip is a follow-up to the highly successful visit to Gleniffer in 2010 by a group of pupils and teachers from its partner school.

Modern Languages teacher, Rona Quinn, will be one of the leaders on the German trip. She said, “This was a highly successful event. Our pupils took part in the quiz with great enthusiasm and teachers were impressed by the depth of knowledge on European topics displayed by many of the pupils. Over the years, Gleniffer has formed a close relationship with the Hans Boeckler school and we are very much looking forward to meeting old friends and strengthening this bond during our visit in December.”

Rona Quinn, Gleniffer High School

News from Cultural Organisations

British Council



- Connecting Classrooms

Connect your pupils in Scotland with a wider world this term through our new Partnership Funding

To make this year an exciting and engaging one for you and your pupils, British Council Scotland are offering funding through a new global education programme, Connecting Classrooms.

Connecting Classrooms is designed to help young people learn about global issues and become responsible global citizens, as well as giving them the skills they need for work in a global economy. In September a fresh round of funding was launched for partnerships between schools in the UK and schools in sub-Saharan Africa, India, China and South Asia. The full list of eligible countries includes a large number of Commonwealth members offering an excellent opportunity to kick start international activities prior to the 2014 games in Glasgow.

Connecting Classrooms offers travel grants of £1,500 per school, to facilitate visits to and from partner schools to develop the partnership and work together. Use the online collaboration tools including project spaces and forums on British Council Schools Online to develop the partnership virtually. Participating schools will also get access to an easy-to-follow framework to help build and further partnerships relevant to the Curriculum for Excellence. Schools can save time and money through the free resources for partnership projects. There will also be advice and support throughout the grant activity.

The next deadline for **applications** is in February 2013 so start thinking about your application now by reading our **guidance documents**. If you have any questions you can contact us at schools@britishcouncil.org. There is time and opportunity to identify and then bring forward to application your partnership. Don't have a partnership yet? Find a partner with **British Council Schools Online** or check out our **forums**.

For more information, please visit the Connecting Classrooms website - <http://bitly.com/LgvawT>

Le Français en Ecosse news

We are pleased to report that we have been and will be involved in some very exciting projects again this year!



- In September, Richard Tallaron went to Perth, Australia to run CPD workshops for language teachers. He ran a challenging but rewarding session with a group of 65 teachers of Mandarin, Indonesian and Japanese - most of them native speakers - on how to transfer learning and teaching skills from French into other languages. The theory proved correct in the end. Phew!
- LFEE has been involved in creating innovative teaching and learning resources for Education Scotland's Passeport pour la Francophonie website, in the form of animated stories, videos and podcasts. The website is full of cross-curricular activities for teachers of French at primary/early

secondary level. It was launched at the Scottish Learning Festival and is now available to all at

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/passeportfrancophone/index.asp>

- As part of the 1+2 Approach recommended by the Scottish Government's Languages Working Group, and in partnership with SCILT, LFEE will be running 3 pilot projects in 2012-2013, aimed at embedding the teaching of French, German and Spanish into the everyday life of pupils and teachers from P1 to P7.
- Remember now is the time to register for our Immersion Courses in France and Spain for Primary and Secondary teachers in the summer of 2013, under the Comenius programme (see www.lfee.net for more details).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information on any of our activities.

Bien amicalement,
Richard Tallaron & the LFEE team
richard@lfee.net • 0131 343 2222

Goethe-Institut - Focus on Fairy Tales

The Goethe-Institut Glasgow celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales' publication by offering various events and materials for teachers & learners of German. From September to October 2012 a great number of primary schools benefitted from performances by German story-telling artists. Further learning experiences are on offer:



Fairy Tale Poster Exhibition

A fairy tale themed touring poster exhibition is available for schools to borrow for up to 3 weeks. Teaching resources are available online.

Fairy Tale Film Screenings

To celebrate the Grimm-year 2012 the Goethe-Institut Glasgow is offering film screenings for school classes showing ARD's new fairy tale adaptations. Films can also be taken out on loan from our library: library@glasgow.goethe.org.

Competition for Primary and Secondary schools: "Märchenhaftes Theater"

A platform for learners to practise their German in a fun way, to carry out a project as a team and learn to work in a group - pupils are asked to perform a short scene which relates to a situation from one of the Brothers Grimm's fairytales. Entries to this competition must be submitted as a video file. Registrations by 30/11/2012 - deadline for submissions 30/03/2013. For further information go to our website <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/gla/lhr/enindex.htm>

News from Cultural Organisations

News from Institut Français d'Écosse



The Education Department at the Institut Français d'Écosse is committed to promoting French alongside all Scottish local authorities and supporting teachers of French in Primary and Secondary schools in Scotland. To accompany the **1+2 strategy**, the Institut français d'Écosse offers **online resources** free to download and a range of **CPD opportunities** to support teachers delivering French in schools, as well as **immersion workshops for higher and advanced higher pupils** within local authorities.

Online Resources for teachers

We regularly create resources in line with CfE, integrating cross-curricular activities, and projects with a cultural background. All teachers can have direct access to our free online resources on www.ifecosse.org.uk (go to the Education tab).

For primary teachers:



Discover the story "les deux petites souris" and learn numbers, names of animals, and colours with Lulu and Sophie who are living in a flat in Paris.



<http://www.ifecosse.org.uk/Online-resources-for-primary.html?lang=en>

For secondary teachers:

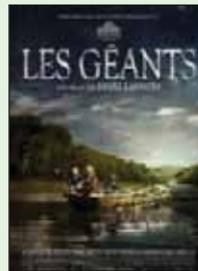
Or do some activities or mini projects with your pupils around the year with French celebrations.

<http://www.ifecosse.org.uk/Online-resources-for-S1-S3.html?lang=en>

French films for schools:

Every year in October and November, you can see the newest French films with your pupils at the Discovery film festival in Dundee (20 Oct - 4 Nov 2012), during the National Schools Film Week (1 Nov - 8 Nov 2012) and the French Film Festival in Scotland (Nov 2012).

You can also borrow DVDs from the library of the Institut Français in Edinburgh or at the Alliance Française in Glasgow and download free online resources about French films from our website: <http://www.ifecosse.org.uk/French-Films-for-schools.html?lang=en>



French CPD opportunities (Sept-Dec 2012)

The Education Department of the Institut Français organises free CPD sessions within Local Authorities on

- French pronunciation and storytelling for primary teachers
- French music and French cinema for secondary teachers

Contact: education@ifecosse.org.uk

Immersion day for Higher and Advanced Higher

In association with some Local Authorities (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Highlands, North Lanarkshire), we run Immersion days for S5/S6 in French.

Motivating pupils with the Rencontres Théâtrales and the Concours en ligne de la Francophonie

The Concours en ligne de la Francophonie will take place in March 2013.

The Rencontres Théâtrales will take place in Edinburgh on 13 March 2013, in Aberdeen (tbc) and in Glasgow on 11 June 2013.

Registration: <http://www.ifecosse.org.uk/Drama-competition-for-schools-2013.html?lang=en>



News from Cultural Organisations

**Goethe-Institut
- New promotional video:
The Smart Choice: German**



The video showcases the importance of learning German as a foreign language for the career prospects of young people. Why should British students actually learn German, if English is "lingua franca" already?

The answer is simple: Germany is one of the UK's leading trading partners and British companies need professionals with a good knowledge of German. This statement is also strongly supported by a recent report 'Learning to Grow: What Employers need from Education and Skills' published by the CBI, the UK's premier business lobbying organisation. The findings portray German as the most useful foreign language for organisations in the UK.

The video is ideal for parents' evenings, language days and all occasions promoting career opportunities. For more information and to order the six minute video as a free DVD, visit the Goethe-Institut website - <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/lhr/wer/eng885204.htm>.



**GOETHE-INSTITUT
GLASGOW**

**Goethe-Institut
- CPD opportunity**

**Film for up-to-date German lessons
PREVIEW - 19 January 2013,
Dundee Contemporary Arts Centre**

The Goethe-Institut would like to invite teachers of German to this CPD opportunity.

The focus of this seminar will be directed towards a newly compiled series of contemporary German feature films for use in the German classroom. This box set is supported by the network of German partner schools, PASCH, and consists of 8 films, among others award winning modern classics such as 'Goodbye Lenin' and 'Sophie Scholl - die letzten Tage'.

The presenter, Christl Reissenberger from Berlin, will also introduce a shortly to be released DVD of short films.

This seminar will offer a great variety of film and teaching materials, practical ideas and methodologies on how to use viewing options to further a better understanding of German language and culture.

For more information go to our website: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/gla/lhr/enindex.htm>

Chinese and the Student Voice



Learning languages really matters and it is excellent to see the 1 + 2 plans. The Scotland China Education Network is passionate about the inclusion of Mandarin as one of the suite of languages offered in as many Scottish schools as

possible. Ultimately, the aim of Curriculum for Excellence is to make our education system fit for the modern world and to improve young people's achievements, attainment and life chances. An education for the 21st century, helping young people to understand their role as global citizens and to secure work, must include a knowledge and understanding of China, its history, culture, politics and society. In the view of SCEN, it should also offer the opportunity to learn Mandarin, one of the three most frequently spoken languages. China is the home of 1.3 billion people in the world's most ancient surviving civilisation, now in the process of becoming a super power and already a top performing economy.

Last session SCEN began hearing the pupil voice very strongly, especially at the Young China and Young Scotland event for senior phase pupils and young professionals, which took place

in the grand surroundings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and saw the launch of SCEN Ambassadors. New Ambassadors this session will include Cat MacDonald and Leanne Bell, in S6 at James Gillespie's High School, who have taken the initiative to secure teaching in Mandarin from the Confucius Institute in Edinburgh. Pupils in many other authorities are speaking out, and their voice will be heard strongly at the SCEN China Youth Summit at Gleneagles Hotel on Monday 12 November. Gleneagles hosted the G8, the Group of Eight Leaders of industrialised nations, in 2005. Invited guests included Hu Jintao, President of China. Our SCEN China Youth Summit at Gleneagles in 2012 will be the G50, as our delegates come from 50 schools, colleges, universities and national bodies and associations from across Scotland, and Consul General Li Ruiyou will be representing China! It is going to be a marvellous occasion and we are determined it will have a real impact and legacy.

Dr Judith McClure CBE, Convener of SCEN



News from Cultural Organisations



CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN:

ACTION PLAN 2012 -13

The Consejería de Educación in Scotland has designed a programme of activities to support the teaching and learning of Spanish in Scottish schools for the current academic year. Some of the programme highlights are:

Twilight Sessions for Spanish Teachers

The sessions seek to offer teachers the opportunity to find out about current trends in teaching and learning Spanish. It will also provide updates on culture and society in Spain and Latin America. The sessions usually take place in the late afternoon from 4:00 pm onwards. The autumn sessions will take place in Dundee 12th Nov, Edinburgh 13th Nov, and Glasgow 14th Nov. Dates and venues of the summer twilight sessions are yet to be confirmed.



The Resource Centre in Edinburgh

The updated catalogue of the Centre includes more than 2000 books and magazines. There is also a database of around 600

resources (CDs and DVDs) related to Spanish culture, geography and film. The catalogues of all the materials and resources are now available on our website.

<http://www.educacion.gob.es/reinounido/oficinasycentros/centros-recursos#centro-reino-unido1>

Teachers outside Edinburgh can request materials to be sent by post. Our new, more flexible opening hours are: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm daily; 3:00pm to 7:00pm Weds.

Spanish Immersion Days for Higher Students

Following on from last year's success, we will be running these days again this year. On the day, students will spend a morning or an afternoon immersed in speaking Spanish while being given the opportunity to experience a carousel of three workshops with topics of their interest (music, short films, games, etc.).

Spanish Immersion Day for Advanced Higher Students

This pilot project is intended to provide an opportunity for Higher Advanced Spanish students or a similar level of examinations to practice their Spanish meaningfully. The sessions will aim to provide them with strategies to become more effective communicators and to cope with unexpected language.

The Global Dimension of Spanish

Plans to hold a Spanish Day for learners of Spanish are under way. The event is planned to take place in Glasgow on the 16th March 2013 and it will include a series of presentations and workshops on the global dimension of Spanish as a language, highlighting the fact that it can open doors on a personal and professional level in different places around the world.

For further information on any of the above, please contact: **Joaquín Moreno**
Tel: 0131 220 0624

asesoriaedimburgo.uk@mecd.es

www.educacion.gob.es/reinounido/

Follow us on Twitter: @asesoriaedimbur



Ruta Quetzal BBVA 2011

Following on from the interview with Sigi White in the last SCILT newsletter, here is the interview with Ellen Renton from St. Thomas of Aquin's High School (Edinburgh). She was also happy to be interviewed and share her experience with SCILT Newsletter readers.

¡Hola, Ellen! You were among the 10 best students in the UK to take part in the Ruta Quetzal BBVA competition this year. ¡Enhorabuena!

Interview on following page.



News from the Cultural Organisations



Interview with Ellen Renton from St. Thomas of Aquin's High School (Edinburgh)

1. Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Ellen Renton and I am 16 years old. I was born in Edinburgh where I still live with my parents and my older brother. Currently I am in sixth year at St Thomas of Aquin's High School. In my spare time I enjoy participating in athletics and dancing and playing the violin in my school ceilidh band.

2. Why did you take Spanish at school?

I began studying Spanish at primary school, where it was the only foreign language on offer. I then decided to continue with my Spanish studies in secondary school. I have now been learning the language for seven years and throughout this time I have been lucky to have benefited from links with our partner school in Logroño, and to have been taught by teachers that inspire me.

3. How did you get to know about the Ruta Quetzal competition?

I had heard of Ruta Quetzal because pupils from my school had participated in it before, but I knew very little about the

competition and what it would entail. My Spanish teacher told us about the competition, and we were all given the opportunity to put ourselves forward. I was then chosen to represent my school.

4. How did you like the experience and what did you learn from your participation?

I was extremely nervous at first but as the day went on I became more confident. Although the tasks were challenging they were enjoyable at the same time. I particularly enjoyed meeting other students of Spanish from around the UK. My Ruta Quetzal experience has given me more confidence in my Spanish abilities, as well as improving my knowledge of Spanish and South American culture.

5. What would you say to other Scottish students who may now be thinking of taking part in next year's Ruta Quetzal?

I would encourage other Scottish students to participate in Ruta Quetzal, because the competition is extremely rewarding and enjoyable. The prospect of entering such a prestigious competition may be daunting at first, but despite the challenges that were involved in Ruta Quetzal, it was a very worthwhile experience.

THANK YOU!

For further information on the Ruta Quetzal BBVA, please visit the *Consejería de Educación* Website - <http://bit.ly/10e4139>

News from the SCIS

Annual Conference of the Sir Robert Taylor Society



In September, I attended the annual conference of the Sir Robert Taylor Society at Oxford University. As a teacher of Spanish and French to university entrance level, I hoped to gain an insight into Oxford University's expectations of its modern languages candidates. I returned with a much clearer idea of how prospective students might best approach their studies, and with a spring in my pedagogical step.

The conference divided into two parts: the lecture series, during which we were given a glimpse of what it is like to be on the receiving end of the intellectual diet of Modern Languages students at the university, and the AGM of the Society. More information on the lectures is available from the Society's website (<http://sirroberttaylor.wordpress.com/>).

The discussion that emerged from the AGM was of great interest. During the discussion, Dr Swift, President of the Society and Fellow and Tutor in Modern Languages at Oxford

University, revealed something of what Oxford University looks for in its modern language applicants:

"Proficiency and spoken fluency are not key criteria (for Oxford)"

"We are happy to receive applications from students proposing to study one foreign language along with another ab initio."

"The interview is key. We are looking for people on an upward trajectory."

"We are very interested in people who really, really, really like reading. We love it when people have sampled literature - even in translation."

The Sir Robert Taylor Society aims to offer language teachers, from a wide variety of backgrounds, access to the Oxford Modern Languages Faculty and its teachers and, by so doing, to make schools aware of appropriate and attractive courses for their pupils. The Society also aims to provide information to language teachers on admissions procedures as they apply to Medieval and Modern Languages at Oxford. The Sir Robert Taylor Society provides an opportunity for modern language teachers to spend two days in Oxford at its annual conference.

More information on the Sir Robert Taylor Society - <http://sirroberttaylor.wordpress.com/>

Gerry Kennedy, Strathallan School

Photographs by Aidan Huxford

Language Ambassadors

Language Ambassador - Chinese



James Brodie – China-Britain Business Council

James Brodie is Manager and CBA Scotland of the China-Britain Business Council. We asked him to share with us why he decided to study Chinese, how he has used his language skills in his career, and his top 5 tips for learning Chinese.

What languages did you study at school?

French, German and Latin for 1st and 2nd year. I only continued French to Standard Grade. I showed no interest in languages at that age – I didn't see the point as I never went to a foreign-language speaking country until I was 16!

Why did you choose to take up Chinese?

I spent a gap year in Thailand teaching English as a volunteer with the charity Project Trust (based on Coll). This sparked an interest in languages, Buddhism and all things Asian. I chose to study Mandarin after a year studying Geography at university, which just didn't quite hit the spot.

Have you lived in China?

Yes. 1 year in Nanjing while I was at university, and spent almost 6 years based in Beijing. But I've travelled extensively and also had a summer school session in Taiwan in 2003.

Have you worked in China? Doing what?

Yes. Firstly managing a contemporary Chinese art gallery, primarily in charge of their international programme (promoting Chinese art overseas and to foreign collectors), then as a freelance interpreter and translator (in the arts/education/NGOs/energy sectors) and most recently in charge of localisation and project facilitation for a British chemical engineering company who were setting up a permanent office in Beijing. As you can see – quite a variety of sectors!

How do you use your Chinese now?

Whenever we're hosting inward Chinese delegations / coordinating events with local Chinese government representatives – at the Chinese Consulate/Embassy etc. – carrying out desk-based Chinese language research for member companies.

What are your top 5 tips for learning Chinese?

1. Be prepared for a lot of repetition when starting out with Chinese characters, but don't worry: they do make more sense the more you know of them!
2. Carry a Chinese/English dictionary with you at all times – always good to identify unknown characters on the spot.
3. Find a way to practise it right from the start – there is a wealth of Chinese international students in Scotland now – take advantage!
4. If you like tweeting, once you've mastered the basics of Mandarin, get yourself a Weibo account and tap directly into the wonderful world of Chinese micro-blogging.
5. As with any language learning, don't be afraid to make mistakes – go forth and bumble – that's how you'll progress!!!

More information on the China-Britain Business Council - <http://www.cbbc.org/>

Strathclyde Language Ambassadors – Year 2

After last year's successful pilot, the School of Humanities at the University of Strathclyde are once again offering you the opportunity to have a team of Language Ambassadors visit your school.

The aim of a visit by a team of Language Ambassadors is to raise awareness amongst young people of the opportunities on offer in Higher Education and in the world of work in general if you study languages. Through presenting their experiences of studying languages and living abroad we hope that our young ambassadors' enthusiasm will rub off on your pupils and influence their choices when thinking about their pathways.

The recruitment for the Ambassadors scheme has been very successful this year with a pool of nearly 80 students interested in taking part. A webpage for the Language Ambassadors scheme will be launched in the coming days and teams will be ready to travel from early November.

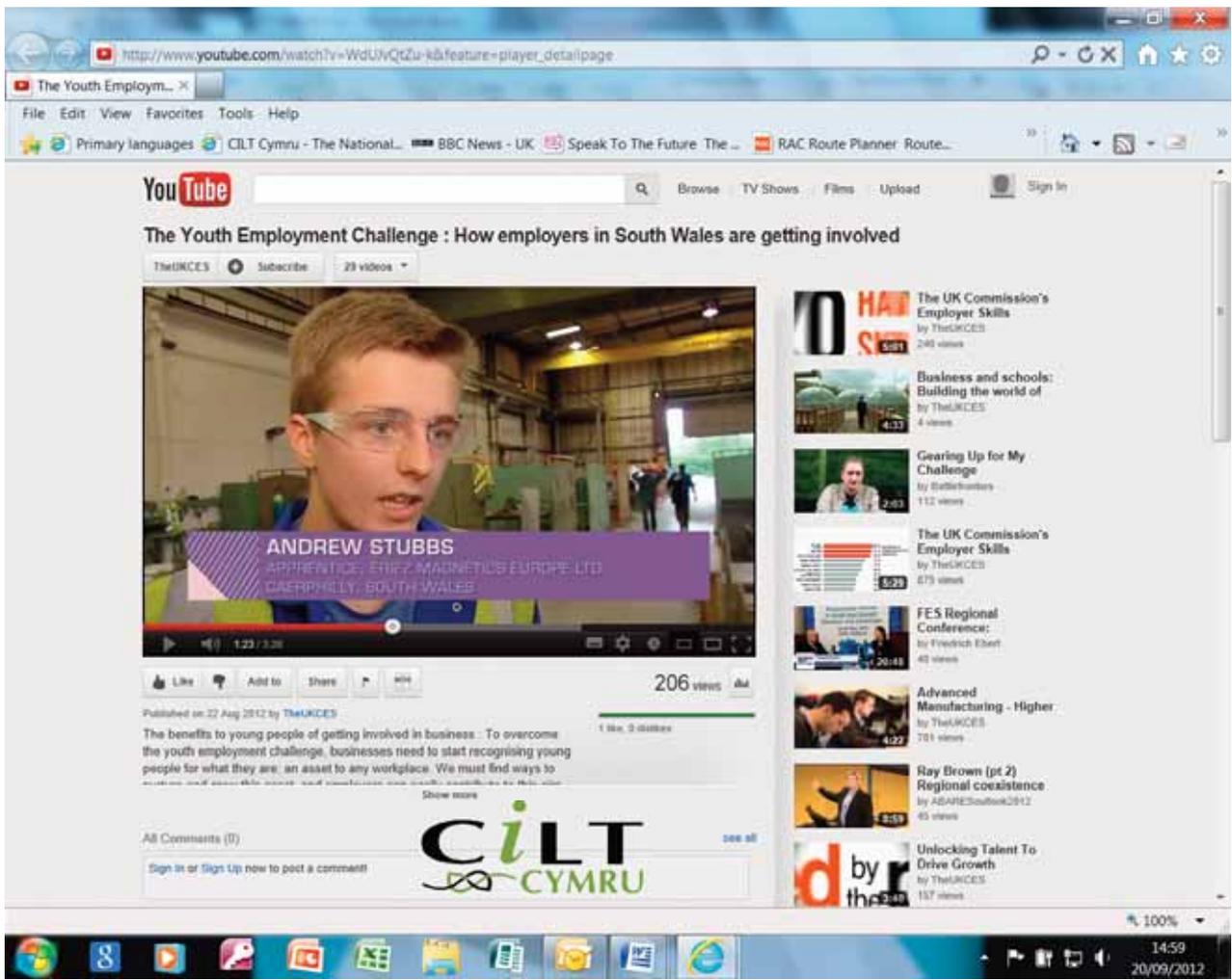
In the meantime, if you are interested in setting up a visit to your school or want more information about what we offer, do not hesitate to contact Cédric Moreau, Senior Language Teaching Fellow in French, School of Humanities, University of Strathclyde.

Cédric Moreau,
University of Strathclyde

Email: c.moreau@strath.ac.uk



CILT Cymru



Welsh employers’ “youth policy” flies the flag for language learning.

Youth unemployment is high on the agenda across the UK, so when UKCES, the Commission for Employment and Skills, contacted CILT Cymru, the National Centre for Languages in Wales, to discuss working collaboratively on a filming project, we jumped at the chance. UKCES is capturing examples of local employers all around the UK, working with young people to develop their skills, and innovative good practice video clips are being disseminated via the UKCES website.

The first clip features two businesses in South Wales: Eriez Magnetics Europe Ltd, manufacturers of industrial magnetic equipment in Bedwas and BCB International in Cardiff, suppliers of outdoor survival gear.

Eriez have contracts worldwide. They mentor students in the local comprehensive school and as a result are now offering

Engineering apprenticeships to students working towards the French NVQ for Business qualification. These students will bring their much needed language skills to the workplace, whilst being trained as engineers.

The employees at BCB International in Cardiff possess language skills and are committed to their work with schools to help young people achieve their potential as future employees.

These skills have allowed BCB to access markets and trade fairs that would otherwise have been very difficult both from a language and cultural point of view.

UKCES clip can be viewed on You Tube at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdUJvQtZu-k&feature=plcp>

For more information, please contact
carolyn.goodwin@ciltcymru.org.uk /
bethan.enticott@ciltcymru.org.uk

Education Scotland



New online resource for primary languages

'Passeport pour la Francophonie' is a new online resource for modern languages in the primary school. The project was led by Fhiona Fisher, and the website has been published by Education Scotland. The resource aims to provide stimulating and exciting learning experiences for pupils at second level, and will enable teachers to embed language learning across the curriculum.

Learners travel through five different countries of the Francophonie where they will find a range of activities which

bring languages to life. They will discover other cultures, meet children from around the world, and gain an understanding and appreciation of their native language and culture. The 'challenges' and 'learning journeys' have been designed to enable learners to develop and practice key vocabulary, to deepen their understanding of the cultures of the French speaking world, and to allow them to see the interconnected nature of languages. The website suggests ways to explore other curriculum areas as well, such as religious and moral education or maths and numeracy through French language and culture.

Visit 'Passeport pour la Francophonie' – <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/passeportfrancophone>

SCILT Staff

**Rosemary Delaney
Professional Development Officer**



What did you do before you came to SCILT?

I have a background in primary teaching and have always shared a real passion for learning and teaching. In 2007 I was invited by Learning and Teaching Scotland to become part of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) writing team and was involved in both the conceptualisation and the engagement of the

CfE Modern Languages experiences and outcomes. In 2010 I joined the National Assessment Team in Education Scotland, a role which involved me supporting the implementation of national policy on assessment in Curriculum for Excellence 3-18.

What is your main role at SCILT?

My role at SCILT involves me in the development and delivery

of a broad range of support measures to support Modern Languages teachers in primary and secondary schools such as CPD seminars/workshops based on identification of teachers' needs, with particular reference to the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

What do you like most about your work?

I enjoy the challenge of working as part of a national team supporting Local Authorities and practitioners in their strive for improvement in learning experiences for all in Modern Languages. This role affords me the opportunity to work with, support and learn from Modern Languages educators across all sectors. I also enjoy keeping abreast of current developments in Scottish and international education relevant to learning and teaching as well as relevant languages education research.

Who has been the biggest inspiration (in the pursuit of languages) so far?

My S1 French teacher, who was a native speaker, really inspired me and gave me the thirst to learn more languages. In S3, I took up Spanish and in S6 I grasped the opportunity to learn Portuguese to Higher level. I really loved learning grammar rules and making the connections to English language. I saw language learning as problem-solving and looked forward to using rules and patterns to decode new language. Learning about other people and cultures intrigued me and also gave me the "travel bug" which I have, in turn, passed on to my children.

SCILT Staff

Fhiona Fisher, Depute Director



What did you do before you came to SCILT?

I was a principal teacher of a large and successful Modern Languages department in a school in East Dunbartonshire. The school offered pupils a range of European languages and also Mandarin. I am particularly proud of the French Exchange and European Work Experience that I set up there, which has now

been running successfully since 1999. I was seconded to Education Scotland in 2011 as the National Development Officer for Modern Languages and then made the move to SCILT as Depute Director in September 2012.

What is your main role at SCILT?

As the Depute Director, I lead on certain initiatives and liaise between the director, Sarah Breslin, and the Professional Development Officers. For example, I lead the Outreach Programme, ensuring that the Professional Learning that we offer meets the needs of the teaching profession.

What do you like most about your work?

I like the variety of the work we do and the range of people with whom we work in partnership, for example, schools, universities, cultural organisations, Scottish government and the business world to name a few. I really value the opportunity to promote language learning and to support and empower teachers to deliver the really high quality language learning experiences they deserve.

Who has been the biggest inspiration (in the pursuit of languages) so far?

I was really lucky to have been well taught by creative teachers who gave me the opportunity to travel abroad to develop my language skills and cultural awareness in a real situation. This inspired me to create similar experiences for our young people as I believe that learning a language affords us the privilege of communicating with people in their own tongue and therefore deepening our understanding and respect for each other.

I am constantly inspired by the creativity and commitment of practitioners up and down the country and by how hard they work to ensure that Scottish young people have the language skills they need to be able to flourish in what is now a global job market.

Mery James Professional Development Officer



What did you do before you came to SCILT?

A kaleidoscope of things! At university I read Russian and German initially, later Swedish. Between school and university, I won a scholarship with the Anglo-Soviet Society to study Russian in Moscow for a month. Brezhnev was in power, so it was not easy to move around but when I did go outside the

main cities, I was moved by the poverty. This influenced my life greatly. On graduating, I worked with homeless people in Rome for two years. I then trained as a nurse, later a midwife. These practical skills enabled me to work in Romania where I was part of a team setting up mobile clinics in rural areas. My

knowledge of French and Italian was of great benefit in learning some Romanian. Finally, my interest in Traditional Chinese Medicine took me to China in 1992.

I have worked as a Modern Languages teacher in various guises. Firstly, as a secondary teacher for eight years, then for another eight years in both primary and secondary schools as a ML Support Officer for Perth and Kinross Authority. My role was very varied – from CPD provision to in-class teaching, MLPS training, support for FLAs and the Confucius Classroom. Latterly, I taught at St George's School for Girls and where, as a co-ordinator for the Confucius classroom, I also worked in primary schools in Edinburgh City.

What is your main role at SCILT?

To support and develop the work of CISS, as well as link in with the work of SCILT in other languages.

What do you like most about your work?

The variety!

Who has been the biggest inspiration (in the pursuit of languages) so far?

My Welsh grandfather. He always insisted that speaking one language (in this case Welsh) was not going to be enough. (I did not speak any English until I went to school.)

SCILT Staff

Lynne Jones
Professional Development Officer



What did you do before you came to SCILT?

A Primary Teacher and languages graduate, I started my teaching career in Dundee and spent the last decade in West Lothian. As the “go-to” person for Modern Languages, I supported the early introduction of languages in my most recent school. By establishing a cluster forum for professional

dialogue between secondary and primary ML colleagues, we were able to gradually increase the number of young learners who embraced French, German, Spanish and Mandarin in schools right across the Bathgate cluster.

My other love is world cinema and over the years I have combined it with languages via commissions for film projects such as Live Lessons 4 Languages and Languages on Screen - www.languagesonscreen.org.uk

What is your main role at SCILT?

As a Professional Development Officer, I am part of the team that works strategically, proactively and responsively to the demands of the Scottish language education environment. We have responsibility for planning professional learning opportunities for languages practitioners with the ultimate goal of making a positive impact on the children’s learning and attitude towards languages and cultures different to their own.

What do you like most about your work?

Getting to see the bigger picture regarding languages learning and teaching in Scotland. Being involved in the languages agenda in a position that affords me a better appreciation of the influences coming from all angles. Witnessing others across the country enjoying and benefitting from their language learning.

Who has been the biggest inspiration (in the pursuit of languages) so far?

The biggest inspiration for my pursuit of languages is not so much a particular person as a situation. My dad’s work took the family all over the world while I was growing up, from Wales to Hong Kong, Germany to Northumberland and a myriad of destinations in between. I found that being able to communicate and find out information for myself when in unfamiliar places helped me retain my sense of independence. Being a shy but observant kind of person, I have always found that listening and watching others have been the key to developing my own confidence – in languages as much as any other area of life. I am very far from being bilingual in any of the languages I ‘know’ but I will use every trick in the book to get my message across – wherever and with whomever I might find myself.

Janette Kelso
Professional Development Officer



What did you do before you came to SCILT?

Before I started work at SCILT I was Faculty Leader of Language and Religious Heritage in Greenwood Academy in North Ayrshire. This was a role I held from August 2011. Prior to that, I was Principal Teacher of Modern Languages in the same school - a position I had held since 1992.

What is your main role at SCILT?

I was appointed as Professional Development Officer to SCILT. My main role is to provide support for teachers through SCILT’s outreach programme. I am also responsible for keeping abreast of new developments in Modern Languages. Part of SCILT’s work is to promote the relevance of language learning in schools and how it can be used in the workplace. I am keen to take this initiative forward, and encourage schools to link up with businesses which use languages.

What do you like most about your work?

I enjoy working with teachers in Local Authorities in helping support them through the changes in the curriculum. I also enjoy looking for relevant materials which can be used to help teachers in a practical way. It is a privilege to have time to browse the myriad of quality materials available to Modern Languages teachers, and to pass on suggestions and ideas that teachers can use in their own classroom.

Who has been the biggest inspiration (in the pursuit of languages) so far?

I have always been fascinated by languages, and since a very early age all I wanted to do was be a French teacher, even though I had no knowledge of, or exposure to, the language. I loved grammar lessons in English at primary school (yes, I am that old!!) when everyone else hated them. When I started to learn French in S1, I took to it like a duck to water. I used to look forward so much to the days I had French on my timetable. My teacher was a real source of inspiration. He was an older man who had the reputation of being really strict, but I thought he was wonderful. I remember sitting in the class at the end of the day, and he would read us stories like the Three Little Pigs in French. He had a real love for the language that was very evident, and that made me want to learn more. I went on to learn German at school, then did Higher Spanish at night school. As part of my degree I did two years of Swedish. I love the interconnected nature of languages, and I love being able to work out the meanings of words even in languages of which I have no knowledge.

SCILT staff

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SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages

- your first port of call for information or advice on languages.

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



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SCILT has moved!

SCILT has moved into the newly refurbished Lord Hope building at the city centre campus of the University of Strathclyde.

Our new contact details are:

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We look forward to welcoming you to our new offices!

