

BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 102

Welcome to the 102nd BBC Active newsletter

Hello and welcome to all our new members. It was great to see so many of you at the Languages Show last month. If you have any comments or feedback on the newsletter, please email us at bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com

The next newsletter will be sent out in January 2012.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

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News from BBC Active

Check out the Amazon languages store for some great deals.

News from BBC Languages

Building on the success of the French and Spanish versions, take a look at the new interactive Italian drama with a mystery to solve! Great for learning and improving your Italian language skills.

National News

Find out about the new French "talking kitchen"; read more about Michael Gove talking about his proposals for modern language teaching; and how a woman from Spalding features on a Klingon language CD.

Events

Read more about the Online world congress for Spanish teachers; the ICT and Languages conference 2012; as well as the many professional development courses available.

Resources

Lots of resources to investigate this month with: the Languages box – a new way of sharing, storing and managing your language resources; why study languages? lots of information written by university students to encourage language learning; and frenchteacher.net - set up to share links and resources.

Surveys and Competitions

Still time to register your school for the 2012 Foreign Language Spelling Bee.

News from BBC Active

Remember to check out the ongoing good deals on the Amazon BBC Active Languages Store.

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Language-Books/b/ref=amb_link_156975627_27?ie=UTF8&node=429978031&pf_rd_m=A3P5ROKL5A1OLE&pf_rd_s=left-

News from BBC Languages

NEW Italian drama for beginners

A long-lost map, a secret recipe and a family feud - where will it all end?
You decide.

Learn Italian online with this brand new interactive drama:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lamappa>

Complete 12 interactive episodes at your own pace... but watch your back!

Choose your own adventure

To solve the mystery you'll need to talk to people, exchange phone numbers, book hotel rooms, solve clues and explore regional cuisine... all this in Italian!

Each of the interactive episodes is linked to a set of learning activities and animated tutorials to help you in your journey:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lamappa/syllabus>

Real Italian

Already proficient? Don't despair! The characters in La Mappa Misteriosa speak 'real' Italian, making this drama an excellent resource for all learners.

Take a look at our user guide to discover all of La Mappa's features, including English and Italian subtitles, interactive features, video lessons and more.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lamappa/userguide>

Hungry for more?

Read about Italian for food lovers on BBC Food. You may even find some mouth-watering surprises...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/food/2011/09/italian-for-food-lovers.shtml>

Do you find your desire to learn a language is motivated by food? Have you been to Italy recently? How did you get by ordering food in restaurants? Share your comments on the blog.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/food/2011/09/italian-for-food-lovers.shtml>

Interactive courses in other languages

La Mappa Misteriosa is the latest in a series of the BBC's immersive language learning dramas.

Building on the popular Ma France and Mi Vida Loca interactive courses, La Mappa Misteriosa offers an even higher quality of drama and elements of gameplay – such as the ability to choose the outcome of the story and to collect clues.

Ma France: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/flash>

Mi Vida Loca: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca>

Keep an eye on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages> for interesting language and culture-related programmes on TV and radio.

Have you checked out these clips yet? Search the Learning Zone Clips library for short language videos:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips>

Enjoy our new interactive course!

The Languages Team

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages>

National News

Education secretary talks to the Guardian about his proposals for teaching modern languages and denies free schools are elitist

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/30/conservative-conference-michael-gove-interview-education>

A "talking kitchen" that delivers cooking instructions in French has been created to aid language learning.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-15437727>

Excellence in language teaching has led to awards for schools and education groups in the East of England, West Country and West Midlands.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-15195994>

The UK risks being cut off from the rest of the world because of a reluctance to learn languages, a leading head teacher will warn.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-15189033>

Every child aged five or over should learn a foreign language, Education Secretary Michael Gove has said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-15135560>

A new unified sign language dictionary has gone on sale in Zimbabwe to end the confusion sometimes caused by the country's various signing dialects.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14656983>

GPs will have language tests, says Andrew Lansley.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15366304>

The president of one of Gaelic's oldest organisations has called for the language to be used more prominently on the Western Isles.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-15356294>

The Gaelic Language Society Comunn na Gaidhlig has said an increase in the number of bilingual signs in Scotland has had a positive impact on raising the profile of the Gaelic language.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-15442063>

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has launched 12 new Gaelic language qualifications for adult learners.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-15349983>

Spalding woman features on Klingon language CD.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-15259140>

The young nation of South Sudan has chosen English as its official language but after decades of civil war, the widespread learning of English presents a big challenge for a country brought up speaking a form of Arabic.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15216524>

Jobseekers who cannot speak English will be required to take language courses or risk losing their benefits, David Cameron has said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14891655>

First World Forum for the French language in Quebec next year hopes to encourage a new spirit of resistance to English.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/11/french-language-speakers-forum-quebec?INTCMP=SRCH>

Don't teach the 'Queen's English' to foreign language students, linguist urges.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2056444/Dont-teach-Queens-English-foreign-language-students-linguist-urges.html#ixzz1cYW8GZU>

GCSE passes soar by 23% over 15 years as grade inflation runs rampant.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2051637/GCSE-passes-soar-23-15-years-grade-inflation-runs-rampant.html#ixzz1cYXM2Fra>

A growing number of GCSE and A-Level students are writing inappropriate and offensive remarks on their exam papers, the exams watchdog has warned.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8852117/Students-use-obscene-offensive-language-in-exams.html>

The A-levels' newer rival the International Baccalaureate (IB) is fine for all-rounders but not so great for those who want to specialise early.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/8846162/Know-your-child-before-opting-for-the-International-Baccalaureate.html>

Linda Parker, Director of ALL, warns of a "growing social divide" as poorer pupils abandon language GCSEs: <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-24001631-university-applications-down-by-nine-per-cent-in-capital-ahead-of-rise-in-fees.do>.

European Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou speaks at the Global Skills Marketplace.
http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/news/2011/20111005-world-skills_en.htm.

Events

Professional Development Courses for Language Teachers held in London at the University of Westminster. Follow link for dates.

<http://networkforlanguageslondon.org.uk/courses/>

French Film Festival in Scotland

9 November - 6 December 2011

Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh - and other venues across the UK

The Institut Français has prepared free resources for teachers and pupils about new French films.

<http://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/wp/>

ICT and Languages Conference 2012

25 - 26 February 2012 Early Bird Rate deadline extended to 11 November 2011

University of Southampton, Avenue Campus

<http://www.languagessoutheast.ac.uk/events/ict-and-languages-conference-illc-2012>

GCSE - Getting the Grade

14 Nov 2011, Southend High School for Girls, Southend on Sea:

For language teachers: speakers include Rachel Hawkes & Greg Horton about writing & speaking, and a representative from Edexcel giving feedback on the first year of the new GCSE. Cost: £50. For more information and an application form:

<http://southendgirls.school-site5.net/> (Click on 'Language College').

Outreach Conference for German

15 Nov 2011, Europe House, London:

The DAAD and the Goethe-Institut London are pleased to announce a joint Outreach Conference for German, aimed at school teachers as well as university lecturers of German.

http://www.thinkgerman.org.uk/event_calendar?item=237&itemoffset=7

Network for Languages: How to develop classroom talk at KS3-4

15 Nov 2011, South East University of Southampton

<http://www.languagessoutheast.ac.uk/events/s8-how-develop-classroom-talk-ks34-1>

ISMLA New Teachers' Training Day

18 Nov 2011, Hampton School, South West London

The event is aimed at teachers in their first three years of employment as well as those studying for the PGCE or GTP. The day will be hosted and led by five senior Modern Languages teachers. The focus will be on practical survival skills for teaching successfully and coping with the varied pressures of life at school. There will be networking opportunities over lunch and during refreshments. Delegates will be asked to submit a resource to our e-sharing box – so everyone will go home with a wealth of new ones!

<http://www.ismla.co.uk/KeyLinks/Newteacherstrainingday.html>.

Integrating Languages Across the Curriculum

25 Nov 2011 Network for Languages London W1B 2UW

www.networkforlanguageslondon.org.uk/course/integrating-languages-across-the-curriculum/

World congress of teachers of Spanish
21-22 November 2011
To be held online (organised by Instituto Cervantes)
http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_359240_en.html

Resources

Thanks to forum users for some of the resources listed below.

This calendar features a different language each month and includes a proverb and quiz questions. Quiz questions and answers are included in a separate word document. This will be a 16-month series lasting until Dec 2012.
<http://languagebox.ac.uk/1991/>

The Language Box is a new way of storing, managing and publishing your Language teaching resources on the web. Share handouts, exercises, podcasts, videos and anything else you can imagine!
<http://languagebox.ac.uk/>

Why Study Languages? An informative website written by university students full of useful information and advice

For years 7, 8 & 9 <http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/ks3>

For years 10 & 11 <http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/ks4>

For post 16 <http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/post16>

Languages Work has produced a wide selection of resources to help your students make important choices about their futures.
<http://www.languageswork.org.uk/resources.aspx>

The resources on this website have been produced in partnership with the Association for Language Learning as part of a TDA funded project to support careers education through subject teaching. There is a resource and a related teacher note for French, German and Spanish for each of Years 7 – 11.
http://www.languageswork.org.uk/resources/classroom_activities.aspx

French Listening and Comprehension - a link to a small clip of a girl talking about her house. The classclips website is highly recommended.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/jhabite-dans-une-maison/1698.html>

TaskMagic3 Spanish Sample Unit - En la cafetería - Free download, ideal for older primary school children or older children working at a fairly low level or in need of revision.
<http://taskmagic.posterous.com/taskmagic3-spanish-sample-unit-en-la-cafeteri>

A site set up by French teachers to share resources and links with the French-teaching community. Recommended by AQA.
<http://www.frenchteacher.net/>

How to improve on your students written or spoken French by using link words
<http://www.quia.com/jfc/451456.html>

Spanish films for KS3

"Aventuras Vascas" from Teachers TV is recommended for Year 8 and 9

Surveys and Competitions

There is still time to register your school for 2012 Foreign Language Spelling Bee competition
<http://flspellingbee.co.uk/Default.aspx>

Enter the Japan Webpage Contest for Schools and win up to £1,000 worth of prizes for your school! <http://www.japanwebpagecontest.org.uk/>

Double Club Song Competition – 2012 Olympics: Together in the Language of Sport. Pop stardom, languages and sport with Arsenal FC!
<http://www.arsenaldoubleclub.co.uk/fun-zone/competition/>