

BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 105

### **Welcome to the 105<sup>th</sup> BBC Active newsletter**

A warm welcome to our new members. If you have any comments or feedback on the newsletter, please email us at [bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com](mailto:bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com)

The next newsletter will be sent out in July 2012.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

Jo

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#### **News from BBC Active**

Check out the great offers on BBC Active series.

#### **News from BBC Languages**

How do sports stars get on with learning languages? Discover Greek, Hebrew and Hindi and find out more about learning languages with CBeebies.

#### **National News**

Find out how learning a second language can boost brain power. And how a surge in demand for MFL subjects at GCSE has caused an urgent recruitment drive for teachers, plus lots more...

#### **Events**

Take a look at the events below – all aimed at Languages teachers and teaching.

#### **Resources**

Lots of great of resources to take a look at, including a free website for Spanish teaching, plus your chance to celebrate your pupils' achievements in German with certificates from the German Consulate General.

#### **Surveys and Competitions**

The search is on for the world's top language student and department.

#### **News from BBC Active**

Take a look at the Book Depository offer running until the end of August, offering 21% off our *Phrase Book & Dictionary* series:

<http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/dealsAndOffers/promo/id/712>

And WHSmith are also running an offer in May and June, of up to £8 off selected titles from the *Get By in...* range. Can be found in store or at <http://www.whsmith.co.uk>

## News from BBC Languages

### Sports stars share their love of languages

Ever wondered how rugby star Jonny Wilkinson gets around Toulon or how Gary Lineker managed in Barcelona?

Sports stars tell us all about their knowledge of French, Spanish, German, Italian and Chinese in our new programme [Speaking Sport](#). Why not pick up a couple of key phrases in time for the Olympics?

### Discover Greek, Hebrew and Hindi

Did you know that the longest word in Greek has 171 letters, or that words like 'bungalow' and 'thug' are of Hindi origin?

Read our brand new guides to [Greek](#), [Hebrew](#) and [Hindi](#) – the perfect way to discover a new language.

### Learning languages with CBeebies

Join Lingo and his bug friends and have fun learning words in other languages with [The Lingo Show](#), a new programme on CBeebies.

Lingo has a new friend, Lieb, who speaks German. Help Lingo and Lieb prepare for the Big Bug Show by [playing fun games](#) whilst learning words in German.

## National News

Ofqual has announced a review of the role of controlled assessment in GCSEs, in response to concerns raised by schools and teachers about practicalities of delivering them and the advice and guidance provided for them:

<http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/news-and-announcements/130/884>.

Learning a second language can boost brain power, scientists believe.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-17892521>

Speaking your mind: links between languages and other skills

The many ways in which languages can boost brain power – who's saying what:

<http://www.all->

[languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/speaking\\_your\\_mind\\_links\\_between\\_languages\\_and\\_other\\_skills](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/speaking_your_mind_links_between_languages_and_other_skills)

Teaching careers have never been more sought-after, or as personally and financially rewarding for those who do them:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/teaching-agency/why-highflyers-are-choosing-to-teach-7707173.html?origin=internalSearch>

Education Secretary's talk of standards being better in the 1950s is dismissed as being misleading:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/golden-age-never-happened-head-teachers-leader-tells-gove-7689173.html?origin=internalSearch>

The number of foreign language assistants in Scottish schools is set to rise for the first time in seven years:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-17866689>

Language schools have warned that the South East's economy could lose £267m a year because of a change in requirements for student visas:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-17859917>

A deal has been struck between Bangor University and a law school in China to set up a Confucius Institute to spread awareness and understanding of Chinese language and culture:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-17822392>

Language enthusiasts bemoan the way words are being misused. But are the meanings they view as improper destined to take over?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17762034>

Doctors wanting to work for the NHS will have to prove they are fluent in English if proposals go ahead:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17746069>

A Polish language newspaper set up for communities in East Anglia plans to expand publication to cater for the growing number of Poles around the UK:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-17700762>

Language commissioner takes over as Welsh Language Board comes to an end:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-17577371>

Irish is the third most used language in Ireland, according to the first definitive results of the 2011 Census:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17561881>

For over a century, activists have been trying to save the Irish language. Can foreign speakers help keep it alive?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17373880>

A growing number of students in the Republic of Ireland are studying Chinese culture and language:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17935496>

A 14 year old from Callander has been named the most multi-lingual child in the UK:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-17557131>

Timothy Doner: How I learned to speak 23 languages:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17548351>

All children should learn a foreign language at primary and secondary school, a House of Lords committee has said:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17466166>

England's teacher training agency is urgently recruiting modern foreign language teachers to cope with a surge in demand for the subject at GCSE:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-17343273>

Webscape: Translate the web while learning Spanish:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/click\\_online/9703898.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/click_online/9703898.stm)

Voice of colonialism gives way to local form of English that's 'flexible and fun' as opposed to giving language 'a good beating':

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/10/ghana-calls-end-queens-english?INTCMP=SRCH>

Diplomats who are not fluent in the local tongue risk doing their country a disservice:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/9195725/Language-skills-are-being-lost-in-translation.html>

To mark the Cultural Olympiad, the London's Globe theatre is staging each of Shakespeare's plays in 37 different languages:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17960227>

## Events

City of Edinburgh Council, Modern Foreign Languages Conference 2012

25 May 2012

Broughton High School, Edinburgh

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_617249\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_617249_en.html)

Open Educational Resources in Languages

1 June 2012

Harrington Building, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, Lancashire, UK, PR1 2HE

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_615368\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_615368_en.html)

Teacher Education and Teachers' Work (TETW) Conference 2012

8 June 2012

University of Glasgow, St Andrew's Building, 11 Eldon Street, Glasgow, G3 6NH

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_617099\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_617099_en.html)

Professional Development Consortium in MFL – Workshops

13 June – 12 July

Reading / London / Walsall / Oxford / Bristol

[http://www.all-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/professional_development_consortium_in_mfl_workshops)

[languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/professional\\_development\\_consortium\\_in\\_mfl\\_workshops](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/professional_development_consortium_in_mfl_workshops)

Using Free Audio Online Tools to Enhance Learning and Teaching in Languages

15 June 2012

London Metropolitan University, Learning Centre, 166 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PP

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_615367\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_615367_en.html)

ALL London June Event - Institut Français

16 June 12

<http://www.all-london.org.uk/>

'Connecting Cultures' and Internationalisation through Commonwealth Foreign Languages (CFL)

20 June 2012

Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, Senate House, Malet Street,  
London, WC1E 7HU

[http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline\\_615369\\_en.html](http://www.strath.ac.uk/scilt/events/otherevents/headline_615369_en.html)

Effective Use of ICT in Modern Language Teaching

27 Jun 2012

The Ashcombe School, Ashcombe Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1LY

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/effective\\_use\\_of\\_ict\\_in\\_modern\\_language\\_teaching](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/effective_use_of_ict_in_modern_language_teaching)

Conference on Transition in Languages – Learning Without Hesitation, Deviation or  
Repetition

3 July 2012

Aston Business School at Aston University in Birmingham

<http://www1.aston.ac.uk/transitions>

Language Futures: Languages in Higher Education Conference 2012

5 – 6 July 2012

University of Edinburgh

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/>

ALL German Day

7 Jul 2012

Goethe Institute, London

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/lhr/ver/en8682777v.htm>

ALL Kent event

14 Jul 2012

Isle of Sheppey Academy

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_kent\\_event](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_kent_event)

Languages in a Globalised World

5 – 6 September 2012

An international conference hosted by the School of Languages,  
Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds

[http://onlinestore.leedsmet.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&prodid=90&deptid=4&catid=2](http://onlinestore.leedsmet.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&prodid=90&deptid=4&catid=2)

ALL Austrian Day

6 Oct 2012

Austrian Cultural Forum, London

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all\\_austrian\\_day\\_3](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/all_austrian_day_3)

## **Resources**

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

Language World 2012 conference 'Languages for all – defining today, transforming tomorrow'  
ran in March 2012. In case you missed it, you can browse the presentations here:

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language\\_world/language\\_world\\_2012/session\\_lists](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language_world/language_world_2012/session_lists)

Celebrate pupils' achievements in German

The German Consulate General would like to offer you the opportunity to receive official certificates, signed by the Consul General, to award to pupils for attainment in German. The certificates could be presented at the end-of-year prize-giving ceremony or assembly and are a great opportunity to support German at your school and acknowledge particular merit in German among your pupils.

To receive certificates, please email Saskia Smellie ([Saskia.Smellie@diplo.de](mailto:Saskia.Smellie@diplo.de)) at the German Consulate General by Wednesday, 23 May 2012 and include name(s) of student(s), year and your contact details.

Emerging technology for librarians and educators

Find That File – a new public search engine that can best be used to search for media and documents, making it ideal for research and other educational purposes. Feedback is encouraged from teachers on how to make the service work best.

<http://edu.findthatfile.com> (specifically library, education, and government resources)

A selection of resources to introduce your secondary students to the French political system and help them design their own campaign:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storyCode=6224862>

FAVOR works with language tutors to publish and share their work as open content for other teachers to use and adapt. Over 150 different resources have now been published on the LanguageBox in languages including: French, German, Spanish, Italian and Chinese as well as Ukrainian, Hungarian, Estonian and Latvian. All resources are freely available for download and editing. The LanguageBox is an open-community site, so register an account today to be part of the open movement in languages!

<http://languagebox.ac.uk/>

AsíSeHace.net is a free website from the Spanish Department at Nottingham High School with lots of interactive exercises to help you learn Spanish. Although this website is specifically designed to help GCSE and A-Level students, it would be useful to absolutely anyone learning Spanish:

<http://www.asisehace.net/>

LLAS (Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies) has produced its well-known 'Why study languages...?' calendar in a monthly, downloadable format:

<http://languagebox.ac.uk/1991/>

Some exercises to help learn or revise French vocabulary with thanks to Madame Perkins from Oldfield School.

<http://www.quia.com/pages/mperkins/page1>

A 9-minute video with some great messages about multiculturalism (and a bit about languages too). It will resonate with anyone who has lived in two or more countries/cultures for any period of their life:

<http://vimeo.com/41264088>.

### **Surveys and Competitions**

ALL Language Perfect World Championships 2012

21 – 31 May 2012:

The search is on for the world's top language student and department!

<http://languageperfect.com/worldchamps/>

Hong Kong: A Dream Destination for University Study!

Win a place at a university summer school

Deadline: 25 May 2012

[http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student\\_competition.htm](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student_competition.htm)