

BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 108

Welcome to the 108th BBC Active newsletter

Happy New Year to all our members!

Firstly, an apology for the lack of newsletter in November. A number of technical issues hit us which meant we were unable to access our contact database. Fortunately these have now been resolved and you can look forward to normal service resuming. So, a warm welcome back to all our subscribers. 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 March 2013.

In the meantime, please enjoy this one!

Jo

Contents

News from BBC Active

Great opportunities for discounts at The Book Depository

National News

What will 2013 bring for education? Plus tips, opportunities and challenges of teaching in a multicultural classroom, and lots more...

Events

Find out about Language World 2013 coming in March and lots of great events going on, with plenty of opportunities for CPD.

Resources

Take a look at 'Snakes and Dragons', a resource pack to explore Chinese culture and languages, plus links for tackling bullying in different languages.

Surveys and Competitions

Check out Linguatrivia – a competition for French learners – or enter your school for the ALL Language Perfect World Championships 2013.

News from BBC Active

There is a great promotion running with The Book Depository with between 30% and 40% off our Talk Complete and Talk Box Set titles. This is running all the way through to March. Available in French, Spanish, Italian and German languages. Find out more at <http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/dealsAndOffers/promo/id/941>

National News

Teacher predictions: what will 2013 bring for education?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2012/dec/31/education-in-2013-teacher-predictions?INTCMP=ILCNETTXT3487>

Highest quality of graduates going into teacher training – especially into vital EBacc subjects:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00217134/teaching-agency-census->

A report into the background of the GCSE English controversy from the BBC News website:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-20175633>

Teaching in multicultural classrooms: tips, challenges and opportunities:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2012/nov/07/teaching-multicultural-classroom-advice-challenges>

Learning another language has many benefits apart from aiding research:
<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/postgraduate/the-joys-of-being-bilingual-8297708.html?origin=internalSearch>

Action urged as universities 'fail to produce enough graduates to become specialist teachers':
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/action-urged-as-universities-fail-to-produce-enough-graduates-to-become-specialist-teachers-8282349.html?origin=internalSearch>

Tests for trainee teachers to be revamped to raise status of profession:
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/tests-for-trainee-teachers-to-be-revamped-to-raise-status-of-profession-8227468.html?origin=internalSearch>

Children as young as nine will be taught three languages amid rising immigration, tourism and increasing demand for workers that speak more than just English, MSPs have heard.
<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/209221-languages-drive-is-crucial-for-scotlands-future-msps-told/>

The difficulties in persuading pupils to study foreign languages at Higher has been underlined by a report that compares languages and social subjects uptake:
<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6313522>

Northern Ireland has a weak profile when it comes to learning foreign languages and needs to give this a much higher priority, a report suggests:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20512036>

Whistling is a compulsory subject at schools in the Canary Island of La Gomera:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20933062>

The National Centre for Languages in Wales has turned to the sciences to reverse the decline in pupils choosing a foreign language at GCSE:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-20740012>

A Holyrood committee has launched an inquiry into language teaching in Scottish primary schools. It follows research suggesting Scotland lags behind many other countries in linguistic skills:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-20723720>

Online, English has become a common language for users from around the world. In the process, the language itself is changing:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-20332763>

A widespread lack of language skills could be damaging Scotland's ability to trade abroad, a report has suggested:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-20499495>

'I wanted a route into psychology but found a school I just couldn't leave'
For Sean O'Sullivan doing his PGCE was a means to an end but serendipity and a role in an amazing special school has led to a deeply fulfilling career:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2013/jan/13/teaching-career-special-needs-educational-psychology?INTCMP=SRCH>

Controversy grows over the new exams, league tables reveal the true state of Downhills school, and (lack of) transparency at the education department:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jan/07/exams-schools-academies-education-department?INTCMP=SRCH>

From Mandarin classes in Kent to meditation in Lancashire, free schools are the biggest experiment in education, but are they any good and who's paying?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/jan/04/free-schools?INTCMP=SRCH>

Events

e-learning symposium 2013

24 January – 25 January 2013

Avenue Campus, University of Southampton

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/6636>

Better performance and improved inspection outcomes through the use of performance data
A series of events running at venues around the country

<http://www.ssatuk.co.uk/ssat/programmes-support/data/data-ofsted-selfevaluation-events/>

Leading the Outstanding Modern Languages Dept

A one-year programme comprising four events for heads and aspiring heads of Modern Foreign Languages, starting in the Spring Term

<http://www.ssatuk.co.uk/ssat/programmes-support/leadership/leading-the-outstanding-modern-languages-department-2/>

Progress and Enjoyment at MFL AS + A2

31 January 2013

Comberton Village College, Cambridgeshire

http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/progress_and_enjoyment_at_mfl_asa2

European and International Opportunities for Schools

8 February 2013

RAF Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire

http://etwinninguk.typepad.com/etwinning_uk/2012/12/european-and-international-opportunities-for-schools-8th-february-2013.html

ICT and Languages Conference 2013

9 February – 10 February 2013

University of Southampton

<https://www.languagessoutheast.ac.uk/events/ict-and-languages-conference-2013-iiilc3>

ALL Yorkshire Sixth Form Days

German: 8 March

French: 12 March

Spanish: 22 March

King Edward VII School Language College

<http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Events/ALL%20Yorks%20flyer%202013%20Sixth%20Form%20Days.pdf>

Language World 2013

22 March – 23 March 2013

Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University

http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language_world/language_world_2013

Residence Abroad, Social Networks and Second Language Learning

10 April – 12 April 2013

Avenue Campus, University of Southampton

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/6649>

Resources

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

The British Council has created a 'Snakes and Dragons' education pack for primary schools across the UK to explore Chinese culture and language with pupils in the run-up to the Chinese New Year and beyond:

<http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/projects-and-resources/snakes-and-dragons>

World travel and a Monty Python sketch will get pupils talking. An article from the TES about using travel to encourage pupils to learn languages:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6313493>

At o2learn.co.uk they celebrate the best of UK lessons through a community of teaching professionals and students, who video and submit their classes for all to see.

New GCSE website, 'Auf Deutsch':

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/lhr/stu/ks4/en9847522.htm>

Resources in different languages for tackling bullying, from the TES:

Explore the issue of bullying using Carlav's comprehension activity in a French online comic:

<http://www.bit.ly/BullyingComic>

Let pupils discover how to speak about Jugendprobleme (youth problems) in German with a translation exercise from chatterbox81:

<http://www.bit.ly/Jugendprobleme>

Try this blog on bullying, with useful vocabulary in Spanish:

<http://www.bit.ly/SpanishBullyBlog>

Practise French vocabulary using this anti-bullying policy from Canada:

<http://www.bit.ly/BullyPolicyFrench>

Visit <http://www.mobbing-web.de>, an excellent German portal on bullying in all its forms, including cyber-bullying.

A Facebook page set up by one of our readers which is dedicated to the Italian, French and Spanish languages, with some occasional Welsh titbits too. It includes a variety of cartoons, cultural information and language tips:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Language-Lady/366887066713114>

Tecla is an online magazine with learning activities for teachers and students of Spanish:

http://www.educacion.gob.es/reinounido/en_GB/publicaciones-materiales/publicaciones.html

French Rhyming Dictionary – free to use online:

http://www.alcor.com.au/french_rhyming_dictionary.asp

Surveys and Competitions

Linguatrivia

An annual competition to stimulate interest in learning French and to identify and reward achievement on the part of students

Closing date: 15 February 2013:

<http://www.linguatrivia.com/>

Pop Video Competition

Closing date: 19 April 2013:

<https://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/2764>

ALL Language Perfect World Championships 2013

20 May – 30 May 2013:

www.languageperfect.com/worldchamps

The Times Stephen Spender Prize 2013 for poetry in translation

Translate a poem from any language, classical or modern, into English

Closing date: 24 May 2013:

http://www.stephen-spender.org/spender_prize_2013.html