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Advance Learning Zone Languages Programmes Schedule – 20th September to 13th December 2005

Tuesday, 20 th September	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Talk Spanish 1-6; Spain Inside Out 1-5; Working with the Spanish; Eurografter: Spain</i>
Tuesday, 27 th September	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Talk Italian 1-6; Italy Inside Out 1-5; Italian Journey Part 1</i>
Tuesday, 4 th October	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Talk German 1-6; Germany Inside Out 1-5; Work Talk: Germany</i>
Tuesday, 11 th October	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Real Chinese 1-10; China Close Up 1-10</i>
Tuesday, 18 th October	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Sueños World Spanish 1-20</i>
Tuesday, 25 th October	01.00 - 06.00	<i>The French Experience 1-20</i>
Tuesday, 1 st November	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Deutsch Plus 1-20</i>
Tuesday, 8 th November	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Buongiorno Italia! 1-12</i>
Tuesday, 15 th November	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Buongiorno Italia! 13-20; Talk Italian 1-6</i>
Tuesday, 22 nd November	01.00 - 06.00	<i>The French Experience 2 (1-10); French Journey Parts 1 & 2; Eurografter: France</i>
Tuesday, 29 th November	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Deutsch Plus 2; Work Talk: Germany; Make German Your Business Parts 1 & 2; How to Learn a Language</i>
Tuesday, 6 th December	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Spanish Journey Parts 1 & 2; Make Spanish Your Business Parts 1 & 2; Working with the Spanish; Eurografter: Spain</i>
Tuesday, 13 th December	01.00 - 06.00	<i>Talk Portuguese 1-6; Brazil Inside Out 1-5; Brazil 2000: City; Brazil 2000: Farming; Brazil 2000: Work</i>

Learning Zone Summer Programme Guide – 26th June to 17th September 2005

If you would like a copy of this new guide, please contact <mailto:tony.hammond@bbc.co.uk>.

What's On at www.bbc.co.uk/languages

Holiday Hello – Plus 9 other key expressions in 34 languages. Listen, print and go <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/index.shtml>

Your Say - We have redesigned the area of our site where you can share your contributions, now including an area to send in your comments.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/index.shtml>

Tutors' best interactive idea – We asked tutors to send their suggestions and it's now time to vote for the one you think is the best. Hurry up, it closes on Wed 28 June!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/competition/index.shtml>

Costa Amor

Our online soap where you decide the outcome is coming to an end soon. Vote for the way you want it to go.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/soap/question.shtml>

For Tutors – Make the most of the internet and video

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/internet/index.shtml> and

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/video/index.shtml>

And check our guides to BBC resources

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/tutors/bbcmaterials.shtml>

Talk French for Tutors - Now with better quality video, new printable worksheets and interactive word games <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/talk/index.shtml>

Get Talking in Spanish - From the BBC and the Learning and Skills Council. Use these dynamic, flexible materials with your classes of adult learners. Click here for a general [overview](#) of all available Spanish online courses and TV programmes. For topic-based guides and printable factfiles to use in class, see below. Please note: you'll need Acrobat reader to access them. Click here for a free download of [Acrobat Reader](#).

Get Talking in German - From the BBC and the Learning and Skills Council. Use these dynamic, flexible materials with your classes of adult learners. Click here for a general [overview](#) of all available German online courses and TV programmes.

Get Talking in Italian - From the BBC and the Learning and Skills Council. Use these dynamic, flexible materials with your classes of adult learners. Click here for a general [overview](#) of all available Italian online courses and TV programmes.

For intermediates

Refresh your [French](#) and [Spanish](#) with our audio magazines

From BBC Schools

Primary French <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/index.shtml> & **Spanish**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryspanish/index.shtml>

GCSE Bitesize – **French** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/index.shtml>,

Spanish <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/index.shtml>, **German**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/index.shtml>

AS/A2 - **French** [http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.french&&sort=T)

[perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.french&&sort=T](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.french&&sort=T), **Spanish**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.spanish&&sort=T>,

German [http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.german&&sort=T)

[perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.german&&sort=T](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-perl/h2/h2.cgi?state=threads&board=schools16.german&&sort=T)

Get Into French and Spanish Site Licences

Created by BBC Languages and Cambridge University Language Centre, **Get Into French** and **Get Into Spanish** are exciting new interactive courses for beginners that recreate typical holiday situations in animated locations around a virtual town. Their focus on real language means your learners will be communicating in French or Spanish right from the start. Complete self-study courses on CD-ROM - supported by a book, audio CD and website - they offer an innovative and enjoyable new way to live the language! See what the fuss is all about by visiting <http://www.getinto.com/fr/marketingpiece/> for a sample demonstration!

Get Into French has also recently won the prestigious Gold Award in the Interactive Multimedia Publishing category of the International Visual Communications Association (IVCA) Awards for 2005. The IVCA has represented the corporate visual communication industry for over 30 years and the judges' citation read as follows:

"In a year in which the multimedia entries were more technically sophisticated than in previous years **Get Into French** made the most imaginative and effective use of the interactive technology. It is a tribute to the producers that this complexity is never obtrusive - indeed the programme appears deceptively simple. It makes exceptionally good use of graphics, is visually engaging and has excellent support material. A fun way to learn French." Please visit <http://www.ivca.org/261> for further information.

And here's a last reminder that there will also be a special presentation by Susan Purcell on Saturday July 2nd between 1.40 and 2.20pm - where she will demonstrate both the CD-ROM and website at Language World 2005 which takes place this year at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Now you can take full advantage of these courses by taking out the following **Get Into French** and **Get Into Spanish** site licences that are for schools and colleges who want to install the CD-ROM on to a number of different PCs. Disc 1 is installed on to the hard drive and disc 2 sits in the disc drive to run the course. Each installation holds 5 user profiles at any one time (these can easily be edited or replaced with new profiles). The CD-ROM contains the complete course and the book and Audio CDs are supplementary materials:

ISBN (0563)	Title Details	Price (inc. VAT)	VAT
Complete Pack			
47242 1	1 x Get Into French CD-ROM, Book and Audio CD	£34.99	£4.17
47243 X	1 x Get into Spanish CD-ROM, Book and Audio CD	£34.99	£4.17
CD-ROMs			
51978 9	5 x Get Into French CD-ROMs	£100.00	£14.89
51979 7	5 x Get into Spanish CD-ROMs	£100.00	£14.89
51980 0	10 x Get Into French CD-ROMs	£175.00	£26.06
51981 9	10 x Get into Spanish CD-ROMs	£175.00	£26.06
51982 7	20 x Get Into French CD-ROMs	£275.00	£40.96
51983 5	20 x Get into Spanish CD-ROMs	£275.00	£40.96
Audio CDs			
51992 4	1 x Get Into French Audio CD	£12.99	£1.93
51993 2	1 x Get into Spanish Audio CD	£12.99	£1.93
51994 0	5 x Get Into French Audio CDs	£45.00	£6.70
51995 9	5 x Get into Spanish Audio CDs	£45.00	£6.70
51996 7	10 x Get Into French Audio CDs	£80.00	£11.91
51997 5	10 x Get into Spanish Audio CDs	£80.00	£11.91
51998 3	20 x Get Into French Audio CDs	£100.00	£14.89
51999 1	20 x Get into Spanish Audio CDs	£100.00	£14.89
Books			
51984 3	1 x Get Into French Book	£9.99	
51985 1	1 x Get Into Spanish Book	£9.99	
51986 X	5 x Get Into French Books	£35.00	
51987 8	5 x Get into Spanish Books	£35.00	
51988 6	10 x Get Into French Books	£60.00	
51989 4	10 x Get Into Spanish Books	£60.00	
51990 8	20 x Get Into French Books	£100.00	
51991 6	20 x Get Into Spanish Books	£100.00	

All materials available from: Two Ten Communications Ltd, BBC Languages, Customer Services, PO BOX 120, Wetherby, LS23 7EU - Tel: 08705 210292, Fax: 01937 845381/ 840277 or e-mail bbclanguages@twoten.press.net.

New 2005-2006 Learning Zone Schools Television Programmes Schedule

Autumn 2005

Friday, 16 th September	0400-0600	<i>Beginners' Culture & Music</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 42429)
Wednesday, 19 th October	0200-0400	<i>Quinze Minutes Plus 1-8</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 43285)
Wednesday, 19 th October	0400-0600	<i>Vingt Minutes</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 42161)
Thursday, 20 th October	0200-0400	<i>Clémentine 1-8</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 87759)
Thursday, 20 th October	0400-0600	<i>Isabel; Clémentine 9</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 22285)
Friday, 21 st October	0200-0400	<i>Susanne; Clémentine 10</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 46266)
Friday, 21 st October	0400-0600	<i>Le Café des Rêves; France 2000 1</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 91247)
Friday, 11th November	0200-0400	<i>Stand Grade French</i> (Scotland only - VIDEOPlus+ code 76459)

Spring 2006

Wednesday, 25 th January	0200-0400	<i>Revista</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 47670)
Wednesday, 25 th January	0400-0600	<i>Voces Españolas: Talk the Talk</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 52922)
Thursday, 26 th January	0200-0400	<i>Jeunes Francophones 1-6</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 34423)
Thursday, 26 th January	0400-0600	<i>Jeunes Francophones 7-10; France 2000 1-2</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 32930)
Friday, 27 th January	0200-0400	<i>D-Mag; Deutsch Plus 1</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 31404)
Friday, 27 th January	0400-0600	<i>Hallo aus Berlin</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 30701)
Friday, 10 th February	1050-1110	<i>Primary Arabic</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 1851297)
Friday, 10 th March	0200-0400	<i>Standard Grade Bitesize French</i> (Scotland only – VIDEOPlus+ code 78045)

Summer 2006

Wednesday, 12 th April	0400-0600	<i>GCSE Bitesize French 1</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 45270)
Thursday, 13 th April	0200-0400	<i>GCSE Bitesize French 2</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 52431)
Thursday, 13 th April	0400-0600	<i>GCSE Bitesize German</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 44868)
Friday, 14 th April	0200-0400	<i>GCSE Bitesize Spanish</i> (VIDEOPlus+ code 85511)

There will be further *GCSE Bitesize* broadcasts in April/May.

Languages for Secondary Schools 2005 – 2006 Catalogue

To request a copy of *Languages for Secondary Schools 2005 - 2006* catalogue or any of our other Guides or Timetables for Schools for 2005 - 2006 please either phone 08700 100 222 or request online at http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/contactus/catalogue_form.shtml

Asset Languages Information Sessions

These are free twilight events for all types of centres and schools who would like to find out more about Asset Languages - the voluntary assessment element of the DfES Languages Ladder - and have a chance to ask some questions about it face to face.

Birmingham on July 4th

Leeds on July 5th

London on July 6th

All sessions have a 4 - 4.30pm start and will finish no later than 7pm.

They do like to keep an eye on numbers, so if you'd like to attend, please visit the Asset Languages web site and print off a booking form

<http://www.assetlanguages.org.uk/news/view.aspx?Source.NewsID=200> or phone their training department on 0121 628 2950.

You will receive confirmation of venue on receipt of the form. If you can't make these dates, keep an eye on the website as they'll be announcing more as they come up.

(These sessions are different to the Centre Coordinator training days: the info sessions are a short introduction to Asset Languages and are suitable for all. If you register to be an Asset Languages centre, your Centre Coordinator will be sent details of a full one-day training session specifically for them.)

New Research into Adult Language Learning in England

CILT, the National Centre for Languages published the results of its first survey into adult language learning in England yesterday, highlighting the key findings that there is a strong demand for language classes among adults and that they are learning a wide range of languages.

The survey of Local Education Authorities showed 36 different languages were being offered. A third of all learners were studying Spanish, over a quarters were learning French and about one in ten learning Italian. British Sign Language, recognised as an official language in 2003, is also among the most popular languages learnt by adults in England.

While the figures paint a positive picture in terms of motivation to communicate in other languages, other findings are potentially more troubling. Three quarters of all language learners are following either beginners or Level 1 courses, raising the concern that in the existing funding system which prioritises Level 2 courses, it will difficult for LEAs to maintain the volume of classes currently required to fulfil demand.

This survey, carried out in partnership with the Association for Language Learning and NIACE, is part of on-going research into trends in language learning and will be repeated annually to establish a clearer picture of languages in adult education. More details of the Language Trends research and the full report can be found at

www.cilt.org.uk/key/trends2005.htm

About the Association for Language Learning

The Association for Language Learning (ALL) is the major subject association for those involved in teaching all foreign languages at all levels. The Association actively promotes through its members the teaching and learning of foreign languages by:

- providing information and publications
- organising professional development activities
- acting as a public voice on behalf of members

It aims to:

- encourage an understanding of the importance of languages at all levels in our society
- promote the development in the United Kingdom education systems of language policies which appropriately reflect the linguistic diversity and the language needs of the country and its population
- advance public understanding of the nature and process of language learning and the techniques and approaches for successful language teaching.
- promote improved standards of language teaching

There are currently around 4,500 members from all sectors of education. The work of the Association is undertaken through its committee structure, which includes language specific committees for several of the major languages currently taught in the UK. ALL also works through a range of national advisory committees. The Association is committed to the professional development of language teachers and membership of the Association brings a range of subject-specific support to the profession, enabling members to keep up-to-date on languages issues and policy through regular newsletters, journals and email information. Members have the opportunity to meet through the Association's UK-wide network of branches and events.

The independent status of the Association, funded largely through membership subscriptions, means that it is well placed to approach government and national bodies about matters of concern in language teaching and learning. The Association regularly meets with the DfES and other government agencies (e.g. QCA & TTA). There is close liaison with organisations

with an interest in all aspects of language teaching, including those representing specific sector interests.

ALL regularly consults its members on views about national issues in order that these can be relayed to the appropriate authorities. Sometimes, consultation takes the form of meetings, sometimes it is done through surveys and questionnaires.

Members play an active part within world associations such as the the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français, Der Internationale Deutschlehrerverband (IDV) and MAPRYAL (Russian Association of Teachers of Languages and Literature). If you would like to join ALL please visit http://www.all-languages.org.uk/membership_join_online.asp or for enquiries regarding:

- individual membership contact Clare Webster on clarew@all-languages.org.uk
- group membership contact Pam Groom on pamg@all-languages.org.uk
- corporate membership contact Sheila James on sheilaj@all-languages.org.uk

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

If any of your students (especially if they are north of the border) want some extra tuition in the Greek language, then please point them to this site – all the on line support is free!

New NIACE Schedule - E-Guides: Lead by Example 2005-2006

Here is a final tranche of dates announced for the E-Guides training programme. This is your last opportunity to sign up! This is a *free* three-day training course for staff working in Adult and Community Learning.

The programme aims to increase the use of e-learning in ACL through developing the skills and knowledge of E-Guides so that they are able to support colleagues in their use of technology in teaching and learning across the curriculum.

E-Guides are:

Confident in using ICT

Willing to learn new skills

Enthusiastic

Able to pass on skills to colleagues

Each E-Guide is encouraged to cascade their skill and knowledge by developing a cascade training programme that suits their organisation according to an agreed action plan. Bookings are now being taken for the FINAL phase of training: Sept - Dec 2005. The training takes the form of two consecutive days followed by a regional workshop at least 4 weeks later.

The schedule is as follows:

Eastern Region:

Grays, Essex 22 and 23 Sept or Bedfordshire 10 and 11 Oct - Day 3 Bedfordshire 25 Nov

East Midlands:

Leicester 12 and 13 Sept or Derby 17 and 18 October - Day 3 Nottingham 21 Nov

London:

South East London 26 and 27 Sept or North London 10 and 11 Oct - Day 3 Central London 28 Nov

North East:

Durham 3 and 4 Oct or Newcastle 18 and 19 Oct - Day 3 Newcastle 29 Nov

North West:

Liverpool 20 and 21 Oct or Manchester 31 Oct and 1 Nov - Day 3 Liverpool 7 Dec

South East:

Gatwick 3 and 4 Oct or Reading 27 and 28 Oct - Day 3 Gatwick 2 Dec

South West:

Bristol 29 and 30 Sept or Exeter 24 and 25 Oct - Day 3 Bristol 5 December

West Midlands:

Coventry 28 and 29 Sept or Birmingham 1 and 2 Nov - Day 3 Coventry 6 December

Yorkshire:

Sheffield 26 and 27 Sept or Leeds 12 and 13 Oct - Day 3 Sheffield 17 Nov

For further information and details of how to apply: <mailto:eguidestu@niace.org.uk> or visit the website at: <http://www.niace.org.uk/conferences/eguides.htm>

Adult Learners Relish New Languages

There is strong demand for adult language classes, and the English are learning a wider range of languages than ever before, a new survey of LEA provision has found. But the high proportion of learners at the early stages of language learning makes provision vulnerable in a funding regime which prioritises Level 2 courses.

The survey, published on May 24th 2005, found that adults in England are learning 36 different languages in LEA classes, and that 75% of them are at beginners or at Level 1. Spanish is the most popular language, with one third of learners opting for the world's most commonly spoken language after Mandarin and English.

Isabella Moore, Director of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, which co-ordinated the survey, said

'The figures show that there is a will among the English people to overturn the monolingual stereotype. There is a mixture of motivations which have to do with what we want to get out of life in both work and leisure. But there is no doubt that we are starting to become more open to the idea of being global citizens and needing to communicate in a range of languages other than English.

'In order to respond to new patterns of demand it is important that we safeguard and develop provision for those in the early stages of learning a new language, as well as providing for progression to the higher levels.'

Further evidence for the popularity of language learning among adults comes in findings published this week by NIACE, which show languages as the fourth most popular subject for adults to learn, and that 6% of adults are currently learning one, or have done so very recently.

For further information, please visit <http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/index.htm#trendsadults>

2005-2006 BBC Northern Ireland Learning Resources Booklet

The new 2005-2006 BBC Northern Ireland Learning resources booklet is a guide to all the resources we have planned for the new academic year. As well as comprehensive radio, television and online sections for schools, there is a lifelong learning section with advice and information on initiatives for learners of all ages. The booklet is distributed widely in Northern Ireland, and you can also sign up for a free copy on the website – www.bbc.co.uk/ni/learning/catalogue.shtml.

Focus on GCSE Bitesize Irish Language

We have just launched a brand new website for GCSE Irish language – www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/gcsebitesize/irish. With invaluable revision and testing material, the site covers the four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing at both Foundation and Higher levels.

The material is written by teachers who understand what students must know for GCSE Irish, and the site takes the easy to use format of the other popular Bitesize Language resources provided by the BBC.

In the LISTENING section, the Foundation option allows students to revise and test the areas of: my house; hobbies and interests; school; car accident. The Higher option contains material on: careers; booking a holiday; complaints; travel and holidays; and a fishing accident.

In the READING section, there is revise and test material at Foundation stage for: eating out; penpals; holidays, health and daily routine. Higher level students can focus on town and country; the litter problem in Ireland; mobile phones; the Special Olympics; and the Frankie Kennedy winter school.

Each revision theme is followed by questions allowing students to check their own progress, and the site is enriched by printable resources and audio files of native Irish speakers.

The SPEAKING section allows students to revise and test the following areas: self; family and friends; hobbies and interests; school; holidays; homelife and daily routine. There are also role plays on shopping and health, and a presentation on Peter Canavan. At Higher level, the site focuses on town and countryside; An Ghaeltacht; part-time work; and there is a role play on health.

The final section of the site is WRITING. At Foundation Stage, students can revise and test material on school life; describing a new friend; describing an event; a job application. Higher level students will find material on school and future plans; 'my area'; holidays; a road accident; and a letter of complaint.

The website also contains links to other useful Irish language resources, and the usual Bitesize features such as an exam timetable and links to other revision subjects.

Tacteg Cymraeg (Welsh Language Site) - Age 9-11

Get your writing right! Join Tac and Teg as they guide you through this brand new Welsh language website designed to help children to develop their writing skills. The games, fact files and quizzes have all been created especially to generate pupils' enthusiasm towards written work, with animation and games used as tools to make writing exercises fun and exciting. The site is divided into eight units, all of which begin with the basics and become more challenging as you go on. A colourful and interactive website to make learning fun. Ideal for class work on an interactive white board. Please visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/tacteg/cymraeg>

European Commission Report "Special Educational Needs in Europe: The Teaching and Learning of Languages: Insights and Innovation"

The European Commission report "Special Educational Needs in Europe: The Teaching and Learning of Languages: Insights and Innovation" was published in January this year, accepted in February by representatives of all the member states and now available on line at http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/lang/key/studies_en.html
An executive summary in English or French is available at the same address.

The report highlights successful practice with pupils/students of all abilities and disabilities and points out that successful courses embrace a wide range of outcomes, including linguistic awareness, personal and social development and citizenship.

UNESCO's The Voices of the World Initiative

An international media project to raise awareness of the issues surrounding endangered languages is being organised UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for Languages, Vigdis Finnbogadóttir. The Voices of the World initiative is producing a documentary film to coincide with 60th anniversary of the United Nations in October this year and is collaborating with media all over the world to reach a global television audience. The film takes as its starting point a talk with UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his mother tongue Fante, in which he expresses his concerns for cultural and linguistic diversity. The bulk of the film, however, will be based on contributions from less high-profile linguists and the organisers are looking for storytellers. The project, which is based on an original idea by filmmaker Janus Billeskov Jansen, is supported by the Danish Government and the United Nations. Kofi Annan welcomed the project, saying, 'What could be a better way to pay homage to the United Nations on the occasion of its 60th anniversary than to stress the value of cultural and linguistic diversity of the peoples of the world? After all, by celebrating the diversity of human culture we only strengthen the dialogue among civilizations, an idea rooted in the fundamental United Nations values. I congratulate you on your excellent initiative.'

For more details about the project or to find out how you can help, please see www.cilt.org.uk/promoting/index.htm#voices

New “Starting Kit for the Italian Teacher at Primary Level” Initiative from the Italian Cultural Institute

The Institute is organising a new initiative, “Starting kit for the Italian teacher at primary level”. The first 100 Primary Schools that introduce Italian as part of the curriculum will receive a “kit” for their Italian teacher with textbooks, maps, posters and teaching materials, plus the possibility of applying for a free language course for the teacher who is going to teach Italian. Please visit the Institute’s website for detailed information on how to apply for the kit at www.italcultur.org.uk/education.

If you would also like to receive a brochure on language learning, please contact Italian Language Services at Italian.languageservices@ukgateway.net.

Business Languages Champions Celebrate Successful Pilot in the South West

At a gala dinner last week, thirteen companies, the Business Language Champions and their partner schools and colleges celebrated the success of a pilot project to raise the profile of languages in the workplace.

The initiative, co-ordinated by CILT's Regional Language Network and Comenius South West, brings business and learners together in dynamic and mutually beneficial partnerships, which make the companies more aware of the importance of languages and provides young learners with an insight into how language skills are used in real work contexts.

Students have visited businesses and have worked with authentic company materials to see how languages are used in everyday business. Companies have worked with learners to create multilingual resources and in some cases, have organised work-experience placements.

This pilot project was funded by the DfES and it is hoped that the project evaluation will be positively received and that further funding will be made available to roll the scheme out in all the English regions.

For more details see www.cilt.org.uk/news/index.htm#blcsw or visit www.rln-southwest.com/blc

Astronomers and Zoo-keepers Say Hello to Language Benefits

Arabic-speaking astronomers and zoo-keepers talking in Zulu are being used to highlight the career opportunities offered by even basic language skills. Alongside hairdressers with Hindi and nurses conversant in Norwegian they will be encouraging Britons to say hello to a multilingual future.

The characters feature in an ‘A to Z of languages and careers’ which has been produced as part of a national campaign to celebrate language diversity in the UK, encouraging schools, employers, parents and local communities to mark the European Day of Languages (EDL) in 2005. Ongoing concern from British business about a gap in language skills sees this year’s campaign outline the wide range of jobs where languages are an advantage.

Created by CILT, the National Centre for Languages, the A to Z, which features 26 characters saying hello in 26 languages, forms the basis of a range of free materials available to anyone wishing to join the celebrations on 26 September. Posters, stickers and postcards can be ordered from www.cilt.org.uk/edl, where visitors can also download ideas for activities, quizzes and EDL desktop wallpapers.

Isabella Moore, Director of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, which is co-ordinating the campaign in the UK, said,

‘We are encouraging everyone across the UK to mark the Day in their own way, at school, at work, or at home. The European Day of Languages is a fabulous opportunity to celebrate linguistic diversity, promote the wide-reaching benefits of language learning and kick-start initiatives to boost our language capability’.

On 26 September, Sir Trevor McDonald will be leading the celebrations presenting prizes to the UK winners of the European Award for Languages, which recognises exceptional language-learning projects.

That's All For Now

We hope that the above information will be of real use to you. Remember that we want the E-Mail Club to provide you with the opportunity to let us know what you think about anything to do with us or language learning in general - and we look forward to hearing from you.