

## Welcome to the 56<sup>th</sup> BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

By the time many of you read this, it will be 2007...so Happy New Year and welcome back to the newsletter! This newsletter focuses on the Dearing Review and the interim report that was published mid-December. Remember, it's still not too late to have your say. We also have the very exciting news that many past newsletters are now available on our website! Have a look at [www.bbcactive.com/languages](http://www.bbcactive.com/languages) and relive all those golden Tony Hammond moments.

Susie

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### NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

#### **Newsletters to be available on website!**

As an exciting development to the BBC Active website, we now have an archive of past newsletters which are imminently going to be accessible to all. With all the highlights of the Hammond Dynasty, including useful websites for Spanish, French, Italian, Greek, German and many more, these are a must for all die hard newsletter fans!

Just go to [www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors](http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors) and click on the 'newsletters' link on the left hand side of the screen.

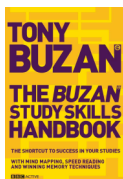
#### **BORDERS. Get Talking in the New Year!**

From 26<sup>th</sup> December until 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Borders will be offering **£3 off Talk French, Talk Italian and Talk Spanish!** The ideal courses for absolute beginners, the Talk series offers a clear, simple and successful way of learning, supported by a great **tutors' website** at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/talk/default.htm> and structured to fit in with



the Languages Ladder ([http://www.dfes.gov.uk/languages/DSP\\_languagesladder.cfm](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/languages/DSP_languagesladder.cfm)).

Now is the perfect time for you and your students to buy our bestselling Talk courses at a bargain price! Go to [www.borders.co.uk](http://www.borders.co.uk) to find your nearest store.



### **Stop worrying, start studying with Tony Buzan - BBC Active offer**

BBC Active are also launching **The Buzan Study Skills Handbook** this Christmas, to ease your students' exam worries. Using his celebrated Mind Mapping technique and a host of other tricks of the trade, The Buzan Study Skills Handbook is the perfect accompaniment to your children's New Year's resolutions!

The Buzan Study Skills Handbook retails at £12.99, but it is available with a special **25 % discount** until 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Just go to [www.pearson-books.com/VR002B](http://www.pearson-books.com/VR002B).

## **NEWS FROM THE BBC**

"As long as a language lives, the people will not perish."

Czech Proverb

### **Talk Italian**

Try Talking Italian with the help of videos, using our online resource for beginners. Learn a little lingo as you go, with our lively introduction to the language:

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

### **Ma France**

Brush up your rusty French with an entertaining, interactive broadband video course. Enjoy the exercises along with 24 short films shot in Provence, the Alps and Lyons. Watch it on BBC Two Learning Zone on 9<sup>th</sup> January at 02:00:

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

### **Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone**

Languages programmes are on TV throughout the night. Set your videos to long play mode as the complete session of programmes will last approximately 5 hours.

09 Jan: set video on the evening of Mon 08 January

0200 - 0600 Ma France

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

16 January: set video on the evening of Mon 15 January

0200 - 0330 Talk Spanish

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

16 January: set video on the evening of Mon 15 January

0330 - 0600 Spain Inside Out

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

23 January: set video on the evening of Mon 22 January

0200 - 0330 Talk Italian

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

23 January: set video on the evening of Mon 22 January

0330 - 0600 Italy Inside Out

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italy\\_insideout/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italy_insideout/)

30 January: set video on the evening of Mon 29 January  
0200 - 0330 German Talk  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/talk/>

30 January: set video on the evening of Mon 29 January  
0330 – 0600 Germany Inside Out  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/germany\\_insideout/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/germany_insideout/)

See the full schedule: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/langtravel/>

### **Interactive Crosswords**

Do you have time to take your Spanish skills to the next stage or are you ready to further your French? Try our brand new, interactive crosswords for intermediates and learn new vocabulary and expressions in a different topic every month. There is now no excuse for not having a clue!

French:

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

Spanish:

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

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **French children to be taught the joys of wine**

French schools are encouraged to embrace French culture with wine appreciation lessons in school <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schoolsworldwide/story/0,,1961684,00.html>

### **Should we make languages compulsory? Dearing interim report**

University language heads up and down the country are calling on the Government to return to making language learning compulsory at GCSE, with **UCL considering making a GCSE in a MFL an entry requirement**. There are also fears that the gap between state schools and independent schools will widen as more independent schools offer languages whilst more state schools opt out.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6205914.stm>

<http://education.independent.co.uk/schools/article2024759.ece>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1962813,00.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/12/03/nexam103.xml>

Listen to Estelle Morris and Nick Byrne on the Today Programme (4<sup>th</sup> December, 0750) here: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/listenagain\\_archive.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/listenagain_archive.shtml) and read what Philip

Hensher made of Lady Morris' comments here:

[http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists\\_a\\_l/philip\\_hensher/article2040149.ece](http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/philip_hensher/article2040149.ece)

further speculation and comments here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6177389.stm>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1968713,00.html>

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2064703.ece>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/primaryeducation/story/0,,1972057,00.html>

Comment: <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/comment/story/0,,1971577,00.html>

### **Mandarin Chinese asked to be made a priority:**

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1971280,00.html>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,591-2502528,00.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/12/15/nlang15.xml>

<http://www.nut.org.uk/showwire.php?id=18011072>

### **Dearing publishes interim report 14/12/06**

The report includes recommendations of a move to compulsory languages in primary education, strengthening of guidance in Key Stage 4, increased take-up of the Languages ladder and investment in CPD for secondary teachers.

Read the report <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=10690>

CILT's immediate response:

[http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/latest/2006/10\\_06\\_lorddearing\\_interim.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/latest/2006/10_06_lorddearing_interim.htm)  
Comments <http://education.guardian.co.uk/primaryeducation/story/0,,1972738,00.html>  
<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2076156.ece>

### **New Kids from the Bloc**

A TES article on the experiences of a Polish schoolboy's first day  
[http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story\\_id=2318771](http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2318771).

### **Bilingual School receives mixed reviews**

A bilingual school has received both praise for innovation and caution over initial underachievement. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6175677.stm>

## **EVENTS**

### **Old Russian New Year ball**

George Hotel, 19-21 George Street, Edinburgh, 8:00pm -01:00am, £25.00 per person  
R.S.V.P. to Oxana Rogovets at: RUSSIA Travel UK Ltd, 103 St. Leonard's Street,  
Edinburgh EH8 9QY Tel: 0131 667 2303 E-mail: [oxana@RUvisa.co.uk](mailto:oxana@RUvisa.co.uk)

The evening will include a 3-course meal and disco. Dress code is eveningwear.

NOTE: If you are sending payment by post please enclose pre-paid envelope with your address. This is a charity event in aid of St. Andrew's Chapel ([www.edinburgh-orthodox.org.uk](http://www.edinburgh-orthodox.org.uk))

### **ALL London 'January Event'**

This year's event is taking place on **Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2007 9.30 – 1.00** at the **London School of Economics, Clement House, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE** (Nearest tube stations: Holborn, Temple, Charing Cross), and will be £20 – non-members, £7 – group members, £5 – members and associate members (or people who join on the day). It will be followed by the Annual General Meeting (free) 1.00 – 1.30. See [http://www.all-london.org.uk/jan\\_07\\_programme.htm](http://www.all-london.org.uk/jan_07_programme.htm) for more details.

### **Language learning and the international dimension**

Three seminars on 'pace in language learning and the international dimension', 'fast tracking at KS4 and the international school award' and 'fostering and sustaining languages' will take place on **19<sup>th</sup> January** at **Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9DT**. See <http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/Article.aspx?NodeId=0&PageId=236790> for more details and booking information.

### **Using new and existing technologies in MFL**

Presentations and practical workshops on this subject will take place on **26<sup>th</sup> January** at **Comberton Village College, West Street, Comberton, Cambridge CB3 7DU**. See <http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/Article.aspx?NodeId=0&PageId=236993> for more details and booking information.

### **BETT 2007 – the Educational Technology Show**

The 2007 BETT conference will take place from **10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> January** at **London Olympia**. It is free to get in, and includes several free sessions on technology and MFL that will be held on **Saturday 13th January**. These include:

10.30am

[Funky Flipcharts, Wicked Websites and Interesting Interactivity in MFL](#)

Lesley Welsh, English Martyrs School & Sixth Form College, Hartlepool

12.00pm

[Wikimania, or using wikis to encourage spontaneous and accurate creative writing in MFL](#)

Peter Morris: Senior Teacher & AST, Gordano School - The National Centre for Languages (CILT)

1.00pm

[Living Languages - Using ICT to Promote the Productive Skills in MFL](#)

Chris Harte, Teaching Awards Languages

2.45pm

[ICT ... so what? Using technology to enhance learning outcomes across all four language skills](#)

Joe Dale: Lead Practitioner for The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and French co-ordinator

Association for Language Learning (ALL)

**Come and visit BBC Active on Stand E70!** For more information, see

[http://www.bettshow.com/bett/show\\_ExhDetails1.asp?exhibitorid=exhiReg615](http://www.bettshow.com/bett/show_ExhDetails1.asp?exhibitorid=exhiReg615)

### **Asset Languages coordinator training events**

New dates are available for training in the Spring term. See

<http://www.assetlanguages.org.uk/news/view.aspx?Source.NewsID=232>

### **ABLA Conference: Aspects of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism**

The **University of Leuven** near Brussels is to play host to the 2007 ABLA conference on **23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March**. There are calls for papers on the role played by multilingualism and multiculturalism in various thematic areas related to applied linguistics, and the registration deadline for this conference is 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Read more about the conference here <http://www.kuleuven.be/ilt/abla/home.php>

### **Call for papers on e-learning and Japanese**

The Oxford Brookes University, Department of Modern languages is organizing a two-day conference with the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (BATJ) and the Japan Foundation. The conference is for those involved in Japanese language education in secondary schools and higher educational institutions.

The conference will be held from **Saturday 31st March** until **Sunday 1st April 2007** at **Oxford Brookes University**, but papers are being invited now on a broad range of topics related to e-learning and Japanese. The deadline for submission of papers is **15<sup>th</sup> January**.

Please see <http://ssl.brookes.ac.uk/JIG/elearning.html> or email Mrs Suzuko Anai at [sanai@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sanai@brookes.ac.uk) for more details.

### **AULC AGM**

On **8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2007**, the Association of University Language Centres will be holding their AGM at **Portsmouth University**. Travel details are available here

<http://www.aulc.org/meetings.html> and agenda will be coming soon.

### **ISMLA conference**

Another reminder that ISMLA is coming on **3<sup>rd</sup> February** at the **City of London School for Boys**. For more details see <http://www.ismla.co.uk/>.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Joe Dale becomes animated in his latest blog**

Joe Dale's thirteenth blog contribution 'Using film-making and animation in lessons' is now live on the TES website at <http://www.tes.co.uk/blogs/blog.aspx?path=/ICT/&post=2313050>

### **Japan Times**

This website was recommended by a tutor who wanted to share it with other subscribers. I hope you find it as useful! Go to <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/> or email [members@japantimes.co.jp](mailto:members@japantimes.co.jp) to register.

### **Hinglish as she is spoke**

A new guide to the mixture of English, Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi that is permeating Britain's playgrounds [http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story\\_id=2313785](http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2313785)

### **Link to Languages in the Near East**

The British Council is running a series of contact seminars across the Gulf region from December 2006 (Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait) to bring together schools from the UK and a range of other participating countries. If you are a UK middle or secondary school working in the state or private sector delivering a recognised UK curriculum, working with pupils between the ages of 11 and 14, and wish to apply, please download guidance notes and an application form at [www.britishcouncil.org/learning-uk-middle-east-school-partnerships.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-uk-middle-east-school-partnerships.htm)

Successful schools will receive funding to cover a return flight to enable a teacher to attend a contact seminar in the Middle East. We will also cover accommodation and subsistence for the three-day event. Partnerships created at the seminar can then receive funding for a joint curriculum project of up to £600 per annum for each UK school and an additional £600 to be shared between the Middle East schools.

For further information telephone 020 7389 4665 or e-mail [world.links@britishcouncil.org](mailto:world.links@britishcouncil.org)

### **CILT's new bulletin for business**

CILT has launched a new electronic version of their language for businesses newsletter. Contact [businessoflanguage@cilt.org.uk](mailto:businessoflanguage@cilt.org.uk) if you want to receive it either by email or as hard copy.

### **IT Resources for MFL teacher trainers**

ITT MFL is a website that offers online support for teacher education in modern foreign languages. Featuring online support modules, news and events and email discussion fora, the website can be found here <http://www.itmfl.org.uk/index.htm>.

### **Joe Dale does digital**

Joe Dale recorded an interview with Bernard Clark, language college director at Durham Johnston, on how the school is using technology in languages. For anyone interested in using digital audio, converting cassettes into digital versions and the benefits of podcasting, it's well worth a listen.

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2006/12/interview\\_with\\_.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2006/12/interview_with_.html)

## **SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Dearing has only just begun!**

If you thought that you had missed the opportunity to have your say in the Dearing language review, then think again! Although the interim report was published in mid-December (see above), the full report is not to be published until February. Submissions are still welcome throughout January.

To make comments on the interim report or on language learning in general, write to The Language Review, Department for Education and Skills, Room 4.86 Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT or email [KS4language.review@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:KS4language.review@dfes.gsi.gov.uk). You can also respond online at [www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations). Make sure you have your say!

### **Award your adult learners**

NIACE are encouraging nominations for the Adult Learners' Week Awards, with a deadline of **12pm, Friday 19 January 2007**.

Do you know an adult learner whose achievements could inspire others?

Does your organisation, company, community group or learning centre offer a creative programme of learning that reaches out to adults? Are your programmes making a difference to learners in the workplace, at home or in the community?

Do you know a group or family who are working together towards a common goal or purpose?

If so, why not nominate them for an Adult Learners' Week Award? It's a great way of celebrating the achievements of learners and, in doing so, encouraging others to get involved as well.

Making a nomination is straightforward and easy - and can be done online or on paper.

[Click here to nominate online >>](#)

Alternatively call the Campaigns and Promotions team on 0116 204 4200.

## TURKISH WEBSITES

### Turkish websites of interest

This year Kurban Bayrami (Eid el Adha), the Muslim 'Feast of Sacrifice', runs from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006-3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007. To celebrate, here is a list of websites related to the language and culture of Turkey, where Kurban Bayrami is a national holiday. Read more about it here [http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/Religion/kurban\\_bayrami.html](http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/Religion/kurban_bayrami.html)

- Turkish Embassy in US website, with information on history and culture, as well as downloadable video clips of Turkey <http://www.turkishembassy.org/>
- The official tourism website, with a good factfile on the country and information about culture and customs <http://www.tourismturkey.org/>
- The history of Atatürk, Turkish folklore and religious information are all covered here <http://www.ic.arizona.edu/ic/babur/culture.htm> with much, much more
- An extensive website that includes a section on the evolution of the Turkish language <http://www.turkishodyssey.com/turkey/culture/culture.htm>
- The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism's website includes information on archaeology, a list of virtual museums and an encyclopaedia of Turkish authors <http://www.kultur.gov.tr/EN/Default.aspx?17A16AE30572D313D4AF1EF75F7A79681D9DD78D03148A6E>
- A mini Turkish language lesson and links to other useful information on flora and fauna, climate and geography amongst others can be found here <http://www.turizm.net/turkey/info/lesson.html>
- A list of basic phrases <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/turkish.shtml>
- Information on the Turkish language and links to Turkish radio, newspaper and other press websites can be found here [www.turkishnews.com](http://www.turkishnews.com)
- A guide to Turkish body language is available here [http://www.business-with-turkey.com/tourist-guide/turkish\\_body\\_language.shtml](http://www.business-with-turkey.com/tourist-guide/turkish_body_language.shtml)
- A map of Turkey and links to the full country profile are available here [http://www.lonelyplanet.com/mapshells/middle\\_east/turkey/turkey.htm](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/mapshells/middle_east/turkey/turkey.htm), and a clickable map is online here <http://www.hitit.co.uk/map.html>
- A profile of Turkey and some useful links to other cultural websites can be found here <http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/turkey/index.shtml>
- Coming Soon! BBC Active Turkish Phrasebook to be published in June 2007!

*Do you have a language or topic you would like this feature to cover? If so, let me know on [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com)! All suggestions gratefully received.*

## What do YOU think?

We want to make this newsletter as useful as possible, so your opinions matter! What would you like to see in the newsletter? If you have any comments or feedback (good or bad!) then please let me know at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com). It is **your** newsletter – have your say!

### NB You can unsubscribe at any time

If you'd prefer not to go on receiving the e-mail club newsletters, please e-mail me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with your full name and educational institution with the message 'Unsubscribe' – or write to: Susie Jones, BBC Active Languages, Mezzanine, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.