

## Welcome to the 58<sup>th</sup> BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

March is upon us and with it the CILT Primary Languages Show and ALL Language World; you can read more about them in the [events section](#), but I hope to see you at both!

This month we are also launching an exciting new scheme to spread the word about the newsletter. **If you sign up a friend, we will offer you a 50 % discount on all BBC Active languages products!** See the [competitions section](#) for further details.

Susie

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Sign up a friend to the newsletter and receive a **major** discount on all BBC Active courses

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### NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



#### **Unleash the power of video and make French fun at KS2**

March sees the launch of Primary French is Fun 1: Let's Begin for interactive whiteboard! This brand new range from BBC Active harnesses the best of BBC video to create a product that provides support for the teacher, whatever your level of expertise, and is mapped to the Framework for Languages objectives. Read more at <http://www.whiteboardactive.com/product-info/primary-french-is-fun-1.html>.

To order your copy, go to [www.whiteboardactive.com](http://www.whiteboardactive.com) or phone 0870 830 8000 (Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm).

#### **BORDERS**

#### **Talk is cheap!**

From 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March, Borders will be offering **£4 off** all the CD packs in our **bestselling Talk range!** 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)).



The discount includes all the CD packs in the Talk range: French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. 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.

**Don't forget to scroll to the [Surveys and Competitions](#) section to read more about how you can get 50 % off all BBC Active Language courses!**

## NEWS FROM THE BBC

"Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."  
Chinese Proverb

### Start the Week with some thoughts on language learning

Baroness Onora O'Neill was on Start the Week with Andrew Marr on 19<sup>th</sup> February. You can listen again at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/starttheweek.shtml> - he starts talking to her about 32 minutes into the programme.

### Survey

Love it just the way it is or think we could do it better? Help us to improve our website by sparing a few minutes of your time to let us know your likes and dislikes and what you would like to see on the Languages site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/survey/>

### Crossword

Further your French or sample your Spanish skills at the next level with our interactive crosswords for intermediates. Get clued up on new vocabulary and expressions in a different topic every month.

French: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/news/crossword/flash/>

Spanish: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/news/crossword/flash/>

### A Guide to Urdu

Why learn Urdu? Because the Urdu community in the UK numbers around one million speakers and it's a practical, living language spoken by 490 million people around the world! Find out about the history of this major world language and take the first steps to learning it with some basic key phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/guide/urdu/>. **See the links [below](#) to help you on your way!**

### Languages on TV - BBC TWO Learning Zone

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

#### 06 March: set video on the evening of Mon 05 March

02:00–03:00 The French Experience

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

0300 - 0330 Eurografters: France

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

0330 – 0400 Working with the French

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

0400 – 0600 Make French Your Business

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

#### 13 March: set video on the evening of Mon 12 March

0200 - 0600 Deutsch Plus

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

#### 20 March: set video on the evening of Mon 19 March

0200 - 0300 Deutsch Plus

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

0300 – 0400 Deutsch Plus II  
0400 - 0600 Make German Your Business  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/business/>

**28 March: set video on the evening of Tue 27 March**

0200 - 0400 GCSE Bitesize – German  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/>

**30 March: set video on the evening of Thu 29 March**

0200 – 0600 GCSE Bitesize - French 1 & 2  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/>

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

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Government opens door to Mandarin and Arabic in schools

Secondary schools in England will be allowed to teach Mandarin or Arabic instead of EU languages as part of proposals to update the curriculum.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6324631.stm>  
<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2005664,00.html>  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article1324074.ece>  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article1334390.ece>  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/china/article1362693.ece>

The practical problems of this idea:

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/alan\\_coren/article1343402.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/alan_coren/article1343402.ece)  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/global/main.jhtml?xml=/global/2007/02/06/ftchinese06.xml>  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/china/article1362689.ece>  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/china/article1390706.ece>

### University language courses facing decline

The University and College Union (UCU) reports that the decline in MFL courses offered is creating regional MFL 'blackspots'.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/universitiesin crisis/story/0,,2008543,00.html>

Read the report here

[http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/g/3/ucu\\_losingourtongues\\_dec06\\_1.pdf](http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/pdf/g/3/ucu_losingourtongues_dec06_1.pdf)

### Anger as Cambridge cuts three languages

The University of Cambridge is under fire over proposals to reduce teaching of Portuguese, Hindi and Sanskrit. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article1403496.ece>

Comment at [http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/education/article1413388.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article1413388.ece)  
<http://education.independent.co.uk/higher/article2290879.ece>

### Let schools use parents as language resource

An opinions piece from the Independent urges schools to let Bengali parents teach their language at school.

[http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists\\_a\\_l/philip\\_hensher/article2241419.ece](http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/philip_hensher/article2241419.ece)

### Why Fleming used facetious French in 'Casino Royale'

The mystery behind the gender-bending Bond book 'Casino Royale'.

[http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists\\_a\\_l/miles\\_kington/article2208226.ece](http://comment.independent.co.uk/columnists_a_l/miles_kington/article2208226.ece)

### HE rise countered by MFL plight

Whilst record numbers of students apply to university, the number of applicants for MFL courses drops again.

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2251373.ece>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/02/12/nuniv112.xml>

### English Just Isn't Enough

Read CILT Director Isabella Moore's monthly column in FE News.

<http://www.fenews.co.uk/newsview.asp?n=2243>

### **Subject to debate**

Geography, history and MFL are all battling with falling uptake at GCSE.

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2264639.ece>

### **Brown's celluloid swap shop**

Gordon Brown has announced the pilot of a film-sharing scheme where schools can get access to a range of films, including foreign-language movies.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2013697,00.html>

### **Signs of things to come?**

Cheshire County Council defends its decision to erect Polish roadsigns.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/02/15/nsigns115.xml>

## **EVENTS**

### **CILT Primary Languages Conference**

Programme details and abstracts for the 11th CILT Primary Languages Show are now available to download from the CILT website at: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/296ma0307pls.htm>.

For details of how to book your place, see <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/296ma0307pls.htm> or contact the CILT conferences team at e-mail [conferences@cilt.org.uk](mailto:conferences@cilt.org.uk) or tel: 020 7379 5101 x287, quoting reference: 296MA0307PLS.

The CILT Primary Languages Show is the annual national show for all those involved in primary language learning, and is held on **Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March 2007** at the **Manchester Conference Centre**.

### **Conference on Bilingualism, Learning and Achievement**

On **March 3 2007** at **London Metropolitan University**, there will be the first in a series of conferences on bilingualism. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Jim Cummins who is renowned for his valuable contribution to the field. For further details please see:

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/depts/doed/conf>

### **Japanese exchange**

The Embassy of Japan is now accepting applications for the Japan-EU Mutual Understanding Scholarship Programme. The programme offers British 16-17 year olds the opportunity to live in Japan as an exchange student with a Japanese family for a period of five weeks or five months. The deadline is **1 March 2007**. For further details and application documents see:

[www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/study/sixthformers.html](http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/study/sixthformers.html)

### **SCRSS Russian seminar**

The SCRSS Russian Seminar 2007 is a two-day intensive programme of lectures in Russian on contemporary Russian society, culture and linguistics, given by lecturers from St Petersburg University. The seminar is aimed at teachers of Russian, final-year undergraduates and graduates of Russian who have a good aural understanding of Russian and wish to keep abreast of the latest developments in Russia. Participants may book a place on either one or both days.

Come along on **11-12 April 2007**, to the **Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies (SCRSS)**, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB, Telephone: 020 7274 2282

Seminar fee: £35 (one day), £60 (two days)

Application deadline: **14 March 2007**

Download an application form from [www.scrss.org.uk/russianseminar.htm](http://www.scrss.org.uk/russianseminar.htm) or send a stamped addressed envelope to the SCRSS for a hard copy.

### **Conference on Arabic**

The British Council, the Association for Language Learning, CILT and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust invite you to a conference on the Teaching of Arabic on **Wednesday 7 March 2007, 10.00 - 16.30** at the **British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN**.

Contact [world.links@britishcouncil.org](mailto:world.links@britishcouncil.org) for more information.

### **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) Open Day**

This will be held on **Friday 2 March 2007** at **Hockerill Anglo European College, Bishops Stortford**. For more information and an application form please visit the 14-19 events page of the CILT website: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/14-19/events.htm>

### **UKFCS Chinese Teachers' Conference**

The 13th UKFCS Teachers' Training Conference is to be held on **31 March-1 April 2007** at **Lady Margaret Hall**, Oxford. Please apply using the appropriate application forms together with a cheque payable to 'UKFCS' – details available at [www.ukfcs.info](http://www.ukfcs.info). For enquiries, please email [education@ukfcs.info](mailto:education@ukfcs.info).

### **E-learning and Japanese language conference**

This will be held from **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March-Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007** at **Oxford Brookes University**. The booking form is available from the following pages. Booking will close on the 10th March and any late booking will be charged at higher rate.

Any teachers attending this conference will receive:

- (1) Free entry to the ALL Language World exhibition
- (2) An invitation to join the ALL language world dinner

[http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/index.php/conferences/details/e\\_learning\\_japanese\\_language/](http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/index.php/conferences/details/e_learning_japanese_language/)  
<http://www.batj.org.uk/>

### **Comenius London Community Language Network Spring Seminar**

To be held on **Wednesday 7 March 2007, 16.45-19.30** at **CILT, the National Centre for Languages, 20 Bedfordbury, Covent Garden, London, WC2N 4LB**.

The focus of this session will be Assessment for Learning: looking at how you can use evidence and dialogue in the classroom to identify what stage pupils are at in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there. To register please contact [kathryn.abram@cilt.org.uk](mailto:kathryn.abram@cilt.org.uk) or telephone 020 7395 2504.

### **Bilingual Learning Conference**

On **Friday March 23 2007, 9 am - 4.15 pm** at **Tower Hamlets Professional Development Centre, English St, Mile End, London E3 4TA**. Teachers from Tower Hamlets primary schools will present examples of bilingual classroom work. National policymakers including Lid King, Director of the National Languages Strategy, and Jill Catlow, Primary National Strategy, will discuss the implications for language learning and ethnic minority achievement.

The conference is free, but places are limited. If you would like to attend, please contact [c.kenner@gold.ac.uk](mailto:c.kenner@gold.ac.uk)

### **Translating and Mistranslating Russia: The Cultural Aspect**

The Sixteenth Annual Conference of the University of St Andrews Centre for Russian, Soviet, and Central and Eastern European Studies on **Saturday, 10 March 2007** at **St Salvator's College, North Street, St Andrews School II and Room 31**.

£20 (students and senior citizens £15) for registration, morning tea/coffee, lunch, afternoon tea/coffee – make cheques payable to 'The University of St Andrews' and return no later than Monday 5 March to: Dr Roger Keys, Department of Russian, University of St Andrews, St Andrews Fife KY16 9AL Tel. 01334 462952/01334 463656, Email: [rjk1@st-and.ac.uk](mailto:rjk1@st-and.ac.uk)

### **Free Training for Teachers of Arabic and Urdu, Moseley School, Birmingham**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007, 9.00–3.30**. Features sessions on raising achievement in reading; Edexcel coursework; networking and a choice of ICT workshops. To book a place telephone Ute Offermann on 0121 678 6400

## **RESOURCES**

### **A shortcut to the world of Word accents**

Helen Myers from ALL/The Ashcombe School has produced this excellent cheat sheet showing how to type accents in Word without having to resort to the 'symbol' menu. Download it here [http://www.all-london.org.uk/faq\\_resources.htm#Accents](http://www.all-london.org.uk/faq_resources.htm#Accents).

### **Q and A on the Dearing Review of Languages**

A handy FAQ from the Times.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/career\\_and\\_jobs/public\\_sector/article1332152.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/career_and_jobs/public_sector/article1332152.ece)

### **iPod project for MFL**

David Seume of The Ashcombe School has been working on an iPod project, which you can see demonstrated at <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/ipod/ipod.html>, or download the file directly from here: <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/ipod/iPod-example01.mov>

### **Better net stuff for MFL**

Joe Dale's fourteenth blog contribution 'Making the best use of the web in MFL lessons' is live on the TES website at <http://www.tes.co.uk/blogs/blog.aspx?path=/ICT/&post=2337572>

His report on the The Ashcombe School Presentation Day, during which Helen Myers 'as always was inspirational' is available at

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2007/02/the\\_ashcombe\\_sc.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/02/the_ashcombe_sc.html)

His interview with Adam Sutcliffe, a French and German teacher from The Gordon Schools in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, about his innovative ideas on blogging, podcasting and digital video work, is available to download here:

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2007/02/adam\\_sutcliffe\\_.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/02/adam_sutcliffe_.html)

Joe has also written a blog post called **MFL podcasting potential for TES Newsday** about the new podcasting categories which have been added to this year's TES Newsday competition. There are also many practical tips on how to start podcasting for those interested. [http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2007/02/mfl\\_podcasting\\_.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/02/mfl_podcasting_.html)

### **That's Task Magic!**

The Task Magic website has recently been updated. There are 85 French and 92 Spanish exercise files (making a total of over 1500 games and exercises per language) divided into units 1 to 11 of the KS2 MFL schemes of work – see <http://www.mdlsoft.co.uk/TMDirect.htm>

### **New Japan Foundation London Language Centre website goes live**

New features include the CHIKARA GCSE resources, designed for students to learn the structure of Japanese language and to practice the language learnt in a communicative setting. The first topic 'Myself, family and home life' is now available for you to download. Go ahead and discover the site for yourself! The JFLLC would welcome any feedback that you have. [www.jpf.org.uk/language](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language)

### **Sunderland Schools Website**

Linguanet users have flagged [www.sunderlandschools.org](http://www.sunderlandschools.org) website as holding some excellent materials for French, Spanish and German at all Key Stages, including primary and also some general resources for skills-based teaching and learning. Have a look and add to their resource bank!

### **Ready Steady NihonGO!**

As many of you may be aware, Japan 21 and the [Japan Foundation London Language Centre](http://www.jpf.org.uk/language) (JFLLC) produced a unique scheme of work for teaching Japanese at KS2. This is now available online at <http://www.japan21.org.uk/teachers/resources/rsn.html>. The scheme comprises 10 x 45 minute lessons designed to be delivered by a Japanese native speaker teacher working with the class teacher. Each lesson is clearly structured, with comprehensive teachers' notes, National Curriculum Links and a set of accompanying Culture Notes. If you have any questions about the course, please email [Katherine Donaghy](mailto:Katherine.Donaghy@jpf.org.uk) or telephone 020 7630 8696.

### **ContinYou to make the most of MFL**

ContinYou is a national charity promoting out-of-school and lifelong learning. Its Extra Time Mini Guides provide support, guidance, ideas and resources to schools and Local Authorities

to help them run a range of successful subject-based study support/oshl clubs. The new Extra Time Mini Guide for Modern Foreign Languages includes ideas and advice for schools wanting to set up a language club or introduce an international flavour to other clubs. Download at: <http://www.continyou.org/> (go to Study Support ETC>Resources>Mini Guides)

## SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

### **Pals mean prizes – introduce a friend and get a free phrasebook of your choice!**

Spread the word! Do you know someone who would benefit from receiving the Newsletter? Perhaps they are someone else in your department, or a friend at another school or college, or someone you know who gives private language tuition...well, they could all benefit from being a member of the Tutors' Club – and so could you! Introduce a friend and receive a one-off **50 % discount on all BBC Active language courses and products!**

All you need to do is to get your friend to email me directly at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with their name and institution and a request to join the Club. As long as they include your contact details as recommender, I will be in touch with you to tell you how to claim your discount.

Start making friends and saving money!

## URDU WEBSITES

- BBC News in Urdu <http://www.bbc.co.uk/urdu/>
- A guide to Urdu from the BBC including key phrases and a brief history of Urdu <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/guide/urdu/>
- English-Urdu dictionary <http://www.urduword.com/>
- Google in Urdu <http://www.google.com/intl/ur/>
- Information on the Urdu alphabet and pronunciation guide <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/urdu.htm>
- Urdu Point, a site for news, horoscopes and poetry <http://www.urdupoint.com/home/>
- Canada's biggest Urdu newspaper <http://www.urdutimes.com/>
- Site of Urdu news, poetry, language and music <http://www.loveurdu.com/>
- The Annual of Urdu Studies – a forum for scholars working on Urdu humanities <http://www.urdustudies.com/>
- Urdu food guide <http://www.opha.on.ca/resources/foodguides/urdu.pdf>
- National Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language, including details of language courses, publications <http://www.urducouncil.nic.in/>
- Urdu poetry translation at SOAS <http://www.poetrytranslation.soas.ac.uk/poems/index.cfm?lang=18>
- Support for learning how to read Urdu <http://www.ukindia.com/zurdu1.htm>
- The High Commission of India, with links to events in London, key dates and news <http://www.hcilondon.net/>
- A general collection of Urdu links is available at <http://users.skynet.be/hugocoolens/urdu/urdulinks.html>, which includes a link to an Urdu alphabet trainer <http://www.hindibhasha.com/> and a link to a page where you can download the Urdu font and learn Urdu <http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Garden/7642/index.html>

*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 [subscribe](#) at any time – it's absolutely free!**

If you are reading this newsletter and are NOT yet a member of the BBC Active Language Tutors' Club, then you can contact me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with your full name and educational institution with the message – or subscribe online at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/emailclub.asp>.

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