

Welcome to the 59th BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

And welcome to all the new Club members who signed up at the CILT Primary Languages Show in Manchester! It was great to see so many people there at what was apparently the best attended event in the history of the Show.

The main item in this newsletter is the [Dearing Review](#), although we also have the advanced [LZ Schedule](#) and a special feature on the [Languages Ladder](#). Remember, if there's anything you want to see featured, just [drop me an email!](#)

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Request to Tutors familiar with Sueños 1 and French Experience 1

We may have the opportunity to make some improvements to the course books for Sueños 1 and French Experience 1. As part of this process we'd be interested in any feedback you have on either the content or the appearance of these books.

Please contact Debbie Marshall on debbie.marshall@pearson.com. Thank you very much for your comments.

BBC Active presents the **Summer of Languages!**

A flurry of exciting new language publishing is coming from BBC Active this Summer.



GET BY – NEW AND IMPROVED!

The *Get By* series is back – updated, improved and perfect to start your learners on the route to getting to grips with languages.

A beautifully illustrated, all-in-one language and travel guide to give your learners the ultimate travel language experience. A 60-minute CD helps you get to grips with hearing and speaking the language, whilst the book is packed with essential words, phrases and travel tips.

Available in French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish from May 2007.

PHRASEBOOKS – SIX OF THE BEST JUST GOT SIX OF THE BETTER!

Compact and easy to use, these handy phrase books take the stress out of finding the right word in a foreign situation and provide a great guide for your aspiring linguists. Each book contains thousands of words and phrases, a pronunciation guide and a mini dictionary.



This June our existing French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish phrasebooks will be joined by Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Russian and Turkish.



TAKE YOUR LEARNERS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL!

The moment you've all been waiting for...a new level of our bestselling **Talk** course! A perennial favourite with tutors who want a straightforward, accessible approach, **Talk French 2**, **Talk Spanish 2** and **Talk Italian 2** will be published in July.

Watch this space for sample pages, special offers and more information on Talk 2, as well as details of **TALK MANDARIN CHINESE**, coming in August!

International distributors down under

The BBC Active Languages list is now distributed by Penguin Australia and Penguin New Zealand in their territories. Our overseas readers can now buy our products and course materials closer to home and save money on delivery costs. Contact your local distributor for the opportunity to spend and save!

Penguin Group Australia, 250 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia

tel: 03 9811 2555 Fax 03 9811 2403 orders@au.penguin.com

Penguin Group New Zealand, 67 Apollo Drive, Rosedale, Auckland.

tel: 09)04427410. Fax: 09) 4427406 Email: Customer.service@pearsonnz.co.nz

NEWS FROM THE BBC

Gaelic/Gàidhlig

Our BBC Alba colleagues have added Gaelic and Gàidhlig to the range of Higher Bitesize subjects. These can be used for revising for the Scottish Higher exams, but don't forget if you'd like your first taste of Gaelic, or learn some more, the website has help for absolute beginners to more advanced learners - there's something for everyone and lots of exciting ways to learn.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/bitesize/higher/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/foghlam/learn_gaelic/

Na Dódaí

Na Dódaí is an Irish language entertainment series for 3-5 year olds which will help build children's self-confidence and self-esteem. The series involves the world around us and embraces all aspects of the curriculum for early learners: the Arts; language and literacy; mathematics and numeracy; personal development; and physical education; all in an Irish medium. Each episode thematically explores issues relevant to the young children's lives using songs, stories, conversation, play and movement activities.

The programmes are broadcast on BBC Two Northern Ireland on Tuesday mornings - available in Scotland on Digital Satellite Channel 992.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/nadodai>

COMPETITION – win a trip to Paris!

Fancy a free trip to the city of light? From Friday 20th April, we'll be running a competition based on the forthcoming French Presidential elections. The winner will be whisked off to Paris by train. Watch this space!

*NEW LOOK * Ma France and Podcast coming soon

Spending springtime in Paris, booking a break in Bordeaux or relaxing on the Riviera? Brush up on your rusty French before you go! We've given our popular broadband video course 'Ma France' a spring clean, making it easier to select particular films and activities. Enjoy

entertaining, short films shot in Provence, the Alps and Lyons before giving our interactive exercises a go. And keep *un oeil* out for our new 'Ma France' video podcast – coming soon!
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/>

Quick Fix holiday phrases

Escaping to Europe for Easter? Whether you're bound for Barcelona, roaming around Romania, living it up in Lithuania or skiing the slopes of Switzerland, we have useful holiday phrases in 36 languages to take away with you. Print them off or download them to your MP3 player: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/> or your mobile: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/mobile/>
 Ski phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/quickfix/ski/>

New look Newsletter – coming soon!

This month's newsletter will be the last in HTML text format. From May, you'll receive all the usual updates from the Languages team in a spanking new style! Look out for our 'subscription' email, which we'll be sending you soon, to ensure that you sign up to the new-look newsletter.

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.

05 April: set video on the evening of Wed 04 April

02:00–04:00 GCSE Bitesize - Spanish
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/>

10 April: set video on the evening of Mon 09 April

02:00–04:00 GCSE Bitesize - German
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/>

Learning Zone **advanced** schedule April-June 2007

Tuesday, April 24 th	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Ma France 1-4</i>
Tuesday, May 1 st	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Eurografters Spain; Eurografters France; Eurografters Germany; Eurografters Italy; Working with the Spanish; Working with the French; Working with the Germans; Working with the Japanese</i>
Tuesday, May 8 th	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Portuguese 1-6; Brazil Inside Out 1-5</i>
Tuesday, May 15 th	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Hindi Urdu Bol Chaal 1-10</i>
Tuesday, May 22 nd	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Real Chinese 1-10; Ma France 1; Talk the Talk – Competition</i>
Tuesday, May 29 th	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Spanish 1-6; Spain Inside Out 1-5</i>
Tuesday, 5 th June	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk French 1-6; France Inside Out 1-5</i>
Tuesday, 12 th June	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Italian 1-6; Italy Inside Out 1-5</i>
Tuesday, 19 th June	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk German 1-6; Germany Inside Out 1-5</i>
Tuesday, 26 th June	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Greek 1-6; Mediterranean Cookery: Greece; Mediterranean Cookery: Turkey; Mediterranean Cookery: Morocco; Mediterranean Cookery: Spain</i>
Tuesday 3 rd July	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Ma France 1-4</i>

SUMMER HOLIDAY

Tuesday 11 th September	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Sueños World Spanish 1-16</i>
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Tuesday 18 th September	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Sueños World Spanish 17-20; Working with the Spanish; Make Spanish Your Business 1-2; Eurograffers: Spain</i>
Tuesday 25 th September	02.00 – 06.00	<i>Talk Portuguese 1-6; Brazil Inside Out 1-5</i>

Please remember to set your recorder the night before. Please note that the above schedule may be subject to change. For up-to-date details of all programmes to be shown on BBC Learning Zone, check the online schedule at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/>.

NATIONAL NEWS

Dearing Report

After months of waiting, the Dearing Report is finally released, and MFL lessons are to be compulsory for all 7-year-olds.

CILT response and links <http://www.cilt.org.uk/news/latest/index.htm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6435885.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6442837.stm>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2032152,00.html>,

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2032012,00.html>,

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2031354,00.html>

http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2354311

Q&A <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2032066,00.html>

<http://www.epolitix.com/EN/News/200703/ee7dcd92-be77-481a-9abf-509f91d61362.htm>

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2352790.ece>

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2350350.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/03/13/nedu13.xml>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/03/13/nedu213.xml>

Call for exams to be made easier:

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/gcses/story/0,,2031769,00.html> and

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article1499956.ece>

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2349987.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/03/13/nedu113.xml>

Comment http://comment.independent.co.uk/leading_articles/article2352784.ece

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article1506075.ece>

<http://www.tes.co.uk/2351225> (the pros and cons of teaching Chinese)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/debate/letters/article1511801.ece>

The Chattering Classes

Languages are becoming the preserve of the elite and concentrated in the top universities.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2032139,00.htm>

HE case studies <http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2032141,00.html>

ESOL podcast

The latest Government announcement on ESOL is available as a podcast from the NIACE website here <http://www.niace.org.uk/news/current.htm#ESOL%20Podcast>

Greek grammar is great for the grey cells

One woman's experience of battling with Greek grammar.

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/body_and_soul/article1461159.ece

The truth about Mandarin Chinese

Only half China's population can actually speak Mandarin.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/6426005.stm>

Votre enfant devrait-il pouvoir lire ceci?

Experiences of teaching French in Edinburgh.

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.1253907.0.0.php>

Getting to grips with the tricks of the tongue

A new Polish-English dictionary is set to highlight quirkier English and Scottish phrases.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/oxfordshire/6434315.stm>

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.1237243.0.0.php>

Twinning ways

Some UK schools are to be linked with their European counterparts as part of a project marking the European Union's 50th anniversary.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6481413.stm>

Morgan Stanley can't bank on tongue-tied Brits

Demand for the graduate training scheme at Morgan Stanley is intense and much of the competition comes from the rest of Europe.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/career_and_jobs/graduate_management/article1547762.ece

Channel 4 learns to espresso itself

Online learning company Espresso is hoping to expand into thousands of secondary schools following a deal with Channel 4. Espresso's products include KS3 French.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2042899,00.html>

EVENTS

Language World, Oxford 30th-31st March 2007

This is the last call for Language World! ALL's annual languages extravaganza is a two-day programme of talks, workshops and plenary sessions from leading experts and practitioners. This year's theme will be **Expanding Horizons**, and speakers include Lord Dearing, Dr Lid King and our very own Steven Fawkes of [Excuse My French!](#) fame.

Come and visit us on Stand N64 for a 30 % discount on all BBC Active Language courses ordered during the exhibition!

For more details, see <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/> and <http://www.educational-events.com/lw/visitor.htm>.

The Magic of Manga

An exhibition featuring the latest winners of the annual competition, *The Rising Stars of Manga*, will run until **26 April** at **Daiwa Foundation Japan House**, located at 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, London, NW1 4QP – see www.dajf.org.uk/location or contact them on 020 7486 4348.

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.

Date: **11-12 April 2007**

Venue: **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)

The application deadline has already passed, but for more information for those going, contact SCRSS on 020 7274 2282 or ruslibrary@scrss.org.uk. www.scrss.org.uk

Steven Fawkes at ALL AGM

The Essex and East Anglian branch of ALL is holding its AGM on **Wednesday 9th May (7.30pm)** in **Ipswich**. Steven Fawkes (ALL Honorary Membership Officer and author of [Excuse My French!](#)) will join us and will give a talk. Come and meet other keen linguists and

enjoy a free glass of wine and a light snack. For more information:
<http://www.alleast.org.uk/events/AGM2007.pdf>

Berlin Aktuell

From **Thursday 5th-Friday 13th April**, this course for teachers and lecturers teaching German to 114-19 learners and/or adults will be held at the **Goethe-Institut, Berlin**. For more information, visit <http://www.cilt.org.uk/cpd/308be0407ger.htm>.

Calls for EUROCALL

This year's EUROCALL conference will be hosted by the **University of Ulster** and will take place, from **Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th September 2007**, in the Central Building on the Coleraine Campus: <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/campus/coleraine/>
Over a hundred sessions will revolve around this year's conference theme - "Mastering Multimedia: Teaching Languages through Technology" - and its related subthemes. In addition to the academic programme that indeed looks extremely promising, there will also be a number of social events during the conference, including a Ceilidh Dinner!
For more information see <http://www.eurocall2007.com>

British Council immersion courses – Russian and Japanese applications open

The British Council language immersion course gives English students a chance to use their language skills in an authentic environment, and gain an insight into local culture. It consists of language lessons on site in the mornings and cultural activities in the afternoons. Applications for the 2007 Russian and Japanese immersion courses are now being accepted. The course will run in October 2007. The deadline for applications is **20 April 2007**. For Russia the application form and guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-russia.htm>
For Japan the application form and guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-japan.htm>
If you have any queries please email world.links@britishcouncil.org.

RESOURCES

The wonderful world of Word shortcuts, pt 2

Many of you appreciated the excellent 'cheat sheet' put together by Helen Myers to help take the pain out of writing accents in Word. However, one of our members proposed an alternative solution because it works in all programs being run under Windows (including email, spreadsheets and more): a freeware program called AllChars. It can be downloaded from: <http://allchars.zwolnet.com/>

Japanese at GCSE

The Japan Foundation have uploaded a number of texts, worksheets and IT exercises for GCSE lessons on their website. Go to <http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/exercises/list.php>
For more information about GCSE Japanese Resources 'Chikara', please go to http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_resources.php. They welcome feedback.

The Simpsons auf Deutsch...

The Northgate MFL blogspot this month features The Simpsons in German! Check out 7th March entry at <http://northgatemfl.blogspot.com/>.

The latest from Joe Dale

Details of Joe Dale's [Flashmeeting](#) (simple video conferencing) on [Blogging and Podcasting: Creative and personalised ways of engaging and extending your pupils in the modern foreign languages classroom](#), held at the beginning of March, can now be found online at http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/03/make_the_world_.html.

Joe's report on the eTwinning conference he attended is also available here:
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/02/tes_ict_blog_et.html
<http://www.tes.co.uk/blogs/blog.aspx?path=/ICT/&post=2347639>

Here is the blog post about the podcast I made with one of our local primary schools yesterday as part of my Creative Learning Lead Practitioner work. Have a listen.
http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/03/nine_acres_prim.html

Imagiers

A teacher has recommended this website, which is a suite of free multimedia applications, done by Vincent Lefrançois, dedicated to French learning. The main focus is to teach you how to correctly pronounce the words, letters and expressions. www.imagiers.net

ICT&MFL, FYI!

The spring edition of the ICT news update is now live on the Languages ICT website at http://www.languages-ict.org.uk/news/ict_news_update.htm. This news section is a great way to keep up to date with any new developments in the field of ICT and MFL. The Top Stories this edition include the QCA report *The use of ICT for teaching and learning languages* which highlights innovative and successful practice of ICT use in the teaching and learning of MFL and features news items and the latest updates on projects in MFL, such as an MFL Video iPod project, new publications and details of forthcoming events.

German for Schools

A new website for schools and teachers interested in German is available here www.ukgermanconnection.org. It includes an 'opportunities database' with information on German events, and the opportunity to create your own German project pages. Visit the website or contact info@ukgermanconnection.org for more information.

Support for primary language teachers

This website has been designed specifically to support those involved with language teaching at KS2. With different sections for leaders, teachers and trainers, it features footage of language teaching in real primary classrooms and a media library bursting with resources. See for yourself at <http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/>.

Don't forget BBC Active's brand new course for KS2 French for interactive whiteboard is now available! Read more here <http://www.whiteboardactive.com/product-info/primary-french-is-fun-1.html>.

Immersion language learning

A new US report into the success of immersion as a means of learning a second language is now available to download here <http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/flimmersion.html>.

SURVEYS, COMPETITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Pals mean prizes – introduce a friend and get 50 % off!

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 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!

Last call for Japanese survey responses

The Japan Foundation is currently carrying out a survey on Japanese Language education, to gain an accurate picture of the current state of Japanese language teaching around the world. The results of the survey will be compiled and published in a report promoting information exchange among institutions involved in Japanese language teaching worldwide.

Your school should have received the survey in December 2006. If you did not receive a survey, you can download it here www.mailtalk.ac.uk/jle-uk, in the 'Files Area'. All the institutions that respond to the survey will be sent free copies of the summary report, and will also be entered in to a draw to be one of 1000 institutions to receive a set of 6 pieces of *Sushi Keshigomu*, sushi-shaped erasers.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophie Lane at survey@jpf.org.uk or call 020-7436-6698. **Responses must be in by the end of March 2007.**

New Japan scholarships at London Business School

Application deadline: 25 May 2007

London Business School and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation are delighted to announce the launch of new scholarships for outstanding Japanese students and outstanding British students with a keen interest in Japan. These are the first Japan related scholarships to be established at London Business School.

The scholarships are funded by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation and will make a £10,000 contribution towards the tuition costs for a selected Japanese student and a selected British student each year, for an initial five year period.

MBA programme Scholarships: www.london.edu/mba/feesandfinancing/scholarships.html

and MBA programme Admissions: www.london.edu/mba/admissions.html

New Italian scholarship

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is offering scholarships of 38 months for British citizens who wish to spend time in Italy attending language courses, carrying on studies and research at Universities, music, arts, restoration, cinema institutes and schools, archives, libraries and laboratories. The deadline for Academic Year 2007-2008 is **18 May 2006**.

For [application form](#) and [guidelines](#) follow these links or see

http://www.iclondra.esteri.it/IIC_Londra/Menu/Opportunità/Borse_di_studio/Per_nome_abitan_tu_in_Italia/

The University for Foreigners of Perugia also offers a scholarship for a course in Italian language and culture. Deadline for applications: 13/04/07. Please contact info.icilondon@esteri.it

European Award for Languages 2007

The Award is a Europe-wide initiative supported by the European Commission. CILT, the National Centre for Languages, assisted by an advisory group, is the UK co-ordinator of the initiative which has recognised over 600 innovative projects across Europe since the end of its pilot phase in 1999. Eligible projects can be based around any language other than English and are expected to have an international dimension.

Award-winning projects provide a potential source of inspiration for other, in different languages, contexts and even different countries, underlining the importance of the criteria that the project be replicable. To date, over 100 UK projects have proved that such criteria can be met and that creative thinking can lead to improved teaching provision and learner achievement.

Applications are invited from schools, colleges, universities, businesses and other institutions engaged in foreign language initiatives, which are innovative, effective and replicable. Visit the [applications](#) section and either apply on-line or download the application form and send by e-mail or post. For more details see <http://www.cilt.org.uk/eal/index.htm> or contact eal@cilt.org.uk.

Application deadline: 30 April 2007

BBC Active is proud to sponsor the European Award for Languages 2007.

ATL survey of language teachers

ATL surveyed their members who are also MFL teachers to investigate their experiences of teaching. See the results here

http://www.askatl.org.uk/atl_en/education/have_your_say/what_you_said/Modern-language_teachers-surveyed.asp

Putting the world to writes

International Pen Friends (IPF) was founded in 1967 and has provided over 1.5 million people aged from 8-80+ years with pen friends. Pen friends are matched according to age group hobbies and interests. Further details can be obtained at <http://www.ipf.net.au> or by writing to Julie Delbridge, International Pen Friends, PO Box 156, Suffolk Park, NSW 2481, Australia.

IPF are currently running an International Letter Writing Competition to coincide with their 40th Anniversary this year. The competition is open to all IPF members, including those who sign up before the closing date of 31st August 2007. See their website for further details.

LANGUAGES LADDER WEBSITES

This month the feature is not on any one language, but on the Languages Ladder. The Languages Ladder was introduced as part of the Government's National Strategy for Languages, and is a voluntary recognition scheme that gives people credit for their language skills via 'a ladder of recognition from beginner level to a standard which sits alongside GCSE, A Level and NVQs'.

Each of the six stages of the ladder consists of four strands for assessment: listening, speaking, reading and writing, all of which are assessed separately. Within these six stages there are three smaller 'steps' or grades. Each grade is assessed through a list of 'can do' statements that form the basis of a teacher-assessed grade award. Once complete, each stage can then be assessed by external examination, accredited by [Asset Languages](#).

- DfES website outlining the basic premise of the Languages Ladder and featuring a conversion table to show how the Ladder equates to current qualifications

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/languages/DSP_languagesladder.cfm

- Asset Languages www.assetlanguages.org.uk – contact assetlanguages@ocr.org.uk or 01223 553998. Amongst other features, this includes interesting case studies of institutions who have adopted the Asset Languages accreditation scheme

<http://www.assetlanguages.org.uk/casestudies/default.aspx>. One case study that is not yet on the website is King Edward VI High School in Morpeth who have replaced GCSEs with the more flexible Languages Ladder:

King Edward VI, Morpeth is a high school receiving its intake in Yr 9 from local middle schools. Until recently this had had a very negative effect on second language uptake. Now pupils are already taking Asset Languages Grade 3 Breakthrough in German and Spanish in March of Yr 9 which has been very motivating. Furthermore the majority of Yr 9 pupils taking the target language, French are entered for Grade 6 Preliminary which is considered a high level in Yr 9.

Asset Languages' skills based approach is both more challenging and appealing as pupils can understand the instructions and work out the answers from the questions. Yr 10 pupils are also benefitting as they can see their progress. As from September 2006 all KS4 optees have done Asset Languages instead of GCSE. The bottom line is that where in the past pupils simply said GCSE is too hard - now with Asset Languages they are saying we can work this out! - Margaret Peaty - HoMFL King Edward VI, Morpeth.

- More information on the Cambridge Assessment website

<http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/externalaffairs/Policy/llas>

- Articles in the Independent regarding the Languages Ladder

<http://education.independent.co.uk/schools/article1528299.ece> and

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article1431081.ece>

- CILT's feature on the Languages Ladder <http://www.cilt.org.uk/qualifications/recog.htm>

- Teachernet's guide to the Languages Ladder and detailing the Can Do statements at every grade <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/languagesladder/>

- The 2002 feasibility study by Nuffield Languages is available here

http://languages.nuffieldfoundation.org/filelibrary/pdf/learning_ladder.pdf

- Language Ladder links are also available on the Vocational Learning website here

<http://www.vocational-languages.org.uk/index.asp?p=ladder>

Do you have a language or topic you would like this feature to cover? If so, let me know on 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. 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 with your full name and educational institution – or subscribe online at <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/tutors/emailclub.asp>.

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 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.