

## Welcome to the 69<sup>th</sup> BBC Active Tutors' Club Newsletter!

I hope you have all survived January and enjoyed the wonders of BETT. The magical month of February brings not only my birthday, but also the ISMLA conference and the CILT Primary Languages Show, plus we have our very first Tip of the Month in the Newsletter. You can send your top teaching tips for next month's newsletter to me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com). Remember, if we print your top tip, you win a BBC Active phrase book of your choice.

There's also some big news in adult education, as the DIUS have launched a consultation into informal adult learning. Read more about it in the '[National News](#)' section and don't forget to have your say.

Have a lovely February, and enjoy your newsletter!

**Susie**

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## NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

### **NEW!** Tip of the month

First things first, and so here is our very first 'Tip of the Month'. This tip comes from Jon Drury of Sevenoaks School, who wins a BBC Active Russian Phrase Book and Dictionary. His top tip is:



'Here's a twist on traditional vocab tests - a 'picture-vocab test'. Let's suppose you want a class to learn 'beach vocab'. Working backwards, find a photo or a picture of a beach, containing lots of typical items. Include some of these items in a list to be learned for homework. For the test, put the photo on the

board, and ask them to write down all the things they see, giving them a mark for each. This is also a good differentiating exercise for able pupils, who may also gain bonus marks for incidental vocab like 'sky', 'cloud', 'pollution', etc. It also better models how vocab has to be recalled within a situation and foreign environment.'

If you have any tips of your own, then please do get in touch. Don't forget, as well as sharing your brilliance with your fellow Club members, you also get a free BBC Active phrase book of your choice. Email me at [susanna.jones@pearson.com](mailto:susanna.jones@pearson.com) with your tip by Friday 22nd February, so it can be included in the March newsletter.

### **Special offer on language course cassettes - 50 % off**

Owing to falling demand we are, unfortunately, going to have to phase out our cassettes over the next year, so we are making them available at half price in case you want to stock up. All you need to do is go to <http://www.pearson-books.com/voucher/> and enter voucher code **VR002S** to receive 50 % off the audio cassettes and audio cassette packs for the following courses:

9780563472599 French  
Experience 1 cassettes 1&2  
New Edition

9780563472605 French  
Experience 1 cassettes 3&4  
New Edition

9780563472629 French  
Experience 1 Language  
Pack with cassettes New Edition

9780563519164 Deutsch Plus Language Pack with cassettes (New Edition)

9780563519072 Italianissimo Beginners' New Edition Language Pack with cassettes

9780563472490 Sueños World Spanish 1 cassettes 1&2 New Edition

9780563472506 Sueños World Spanish 1 cassettes 3&4 New Edition

9780563472520 Sueños World Spanish 1 Language Pack and cassettes New Edition

9780563519133 Sueños World Spanish 2 (New Edition) Language Pack with cassettes



**The audio cassettes of other BBC Active language courses, such as the *Talk* series, will become available to buy at the same discount in the next week. Check <http://www.bbcactive.com/languages/newsandspecials.asp> next week for updates.**

If you would like to read more about any of the courses, you can go to [www.bbcactive.com/languages](http://www.bbcactive.com/languages). Remember, you need to follow the above link and enter the voucher code to receive your discount. Postage and Packaging is absolutely free for all deliveries within Europe.

### **New publishing for the New Year**

2008 sees some great new publishing from BBC Active.

#### *Primary French and Spanish*

Pupil books and photocopiable activity books are being published to accompany each level of **Primary French is Fun** for interactive whiteboard in our Whiteboard Active range. The books provide a useful reference guide linking our resources to the Framework for Languages and the new QCA scheme, as well as providing a wealth of activities for homework and classwork.

We also have two new story and song packs due out in Summer this year! Inspiring new BBC video focuses on stories and songs and also provides follow-up activities, notes on screen and everything else you would expect from a Whiteboard Active product. Available in **Primary French Stories and Songs** and **Primary Spanish Stories and Songs**.

#### *Get By*

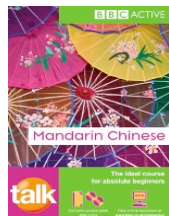
The beautifully packaged *Get By* series is extended to include Polish, Latin American Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. Perfect resources if your students are beginners learning

the language to get by in the country (or countries) of choice, these pretty packs come with an audio CD and a book featuring accompanying exercises, as well as cultural notes and key phrases. **Out in May 2008.**

#### *Quickstart*

An audio-only guide to the basics of a new language, this course has an enhanced iPod feature to give students access to the scripts and key phrases.

**To be available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, German, Greek, Portuguese and Spanish from June 2008.**



#### *Talk Mandarin Chinese*

The long-awaited *Talk Mandarin Chinese* will be out this July! The latest addition to our perennially popular and best-selling *Talk* series, *Talk Mandarin Chinese* is a great way to launch your adults into learning the language, or to supplement your students' studies.

Advanced copies of the *Talk Mandarin Chinese* syllabus will be available for newsletter readers closer to publication date.

## NEWS FROM THE BBC

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

### **Chinese New Year**

Time to celebrate New Year all over again! Try a lively introduction to Mandarin in ten short parts with video clips, useful phrases, tips on pronunciation, grammar and cultural notes to get you speaking in no time. Also this month on BBC TWO (see the Learning Zone schedule below): [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real\\_chinese/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/)

### **Quick Fix ski phrases**

Off to the slopes? Get a Quick Fix in French, Spanish, German or Italian on your mobile phone - download essential phrases wherever, and whenever, you want!:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/mobile/>

### **Valentine's phrases**

Impress your intended with downloadable chat-up lines in French:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/cool/pulling\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/cool/pulling_flash.shtml)

Italian: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/cool/pulling\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/cool/pulling_flash.shtml)

or German: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/cool/pulling\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/cool/pulling_flash.shtml)

### **Six Nations Rugby**

Que le meilleur gagne! Get set for the Rugby Six Nations, which kicks off this month. 'Try' your hand at an interactive crossword and games, picking up useful French vocab and rugby terms along the way: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/rugby/>  
Test your kicking skills with our 'Kicking Kings' game, 'Les Rois du Coup de Pied!' In French or English:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/rugby/kicking\\_kings\\_french.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/rugby/kicking_kings_french.shtml)

### **A Touch of Polish**

Things are hotting up between Polish ex-pat, Bogdan and English divorcee, Sarah in the online soap, where the storyline is down to you! Guess the meaning of a Polish sentence and then vote for your favourite line: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/polish/soap/>

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

05 Feb: set video on the evening of Mon 04 Feb

02:00-06:00 Japanese Language and People

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

12 Feb: set video on the evening of Mon 11 Feb  
02:00-04:30 Real Chinese  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real\\_chinese/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/)  
04:30-06:00 China Close Up  
19 Feb: set video on the evening of Mon 18 Feb  
02:00-06:00 Sueños World Spanish  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/suenos/>  
26 Feb: set video on the evening of Mon 25 Feb  
02:00-03:00 Sueños World Spanish  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/suenos/>  
03:00-03:30 Working with the Spanish  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/forwork/beingthere/>  
03:30-05:30 Make Spanish Your Business  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/business/>  
05:30-06:00 Eurografters: Spain  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/forwork/gettingthere/>

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

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Consultation on informal adult education

The Government is consulting from January 15<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 about the best way to support 'informal' adult learning - that is 'structured or unstructured part-time, non-vocational learning which does not [necessarily] lead to qualifications', a result of the fact that 'more people want to choose what, where, when and how they want to learn'. Make sure you know what is happening by reading the consultation document at

<http://www.adultlearningconsultation.org.uk/> or using the links at

<http://www.niace.org.uk/news/current.htm>. Alternatively, you can request a copy of the consultation document by calling 0845 60 222 60 and quoting reference IAL2008.

Have your say!

The consultation document has a number of points for debate that are intended to prompt discussion, and they encourage people to get in touch with them via the website or in writing.

### New 'half' GCSEs cause confusion and consternation

QCA's announcement that language GCSEs could be split into two, with speaking and listening in one half and reading and writing in the other, has caused many to question the wisdom of the move.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=GMMP155X0U4OVQFIQMFCFF4AVCBQYIV0?xml=/news/2007/12/22/ngcse122.xml>

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/article-23429215->

[details/The+foreign+language+GCSE+you+can+pass+without+speaking+a+single+word/article.do](http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/article-23429215-details/The+foreign+language+GCSE+you+can+pass+without+speaking+a+single+word/article.do)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=504010&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=504010&in_page_id=1770)

### Tables blamed for drop in languages

Headteachers point their fingers at school league tables...

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/secondaries/story/0,,2237995,00.html>

### Christmas observations

The Observer's guide to Christmas in nine different countries

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2007/dec/23/christmas2007>

### Language teachers quitting

As if you need reminding, an article highlighting what a difficult job you all do

[http://news.independent.co.uk/education/education\\_news/article3345175.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/education/education_news/article3345175.ece)

### **Observation is key to success in languages**

An opinion piece on what needs to be done to revive language learning in schools

[http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story\\_id=2483240](http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2483240)

### **The drive to get from drivel to divinity**

The problems of picking appropriate words to a national anthem, especially if your country speaks more than one language...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Columnists/Column/0,,2242056,00.html>

### **The Guardian guide to getting on in China**

The paper's top tips for how not to cause cultural offence in China

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/china/story/0,,2234051,00.html>

### **Guernesiais guru gets going**

The new language development officer on Guernsey rolls up his sleeves

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/guernsey/7164246.stm>

### **Belgians resist divorce**

Despite the severe cultural and linguistic gap between the French- and Dutch-speaking Belgians, most balk at formally splitting the country in two.

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/world/story/0,,2231650,00.html>

### **Le bon blog**

One teacher's experience of how blogging has revitalised her teaching

[http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story\\_id=2483312](http://www.tes.co.uk/search/story/?story_id=2483312)

### **Barking orders**

Imported Alsatians have been forcing their handlers to learn some German essentials

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/derbyshire/7182906.stm>

### **Irish Language Act**

The status of Northern Irish language is called into question following the decision not to

introduce an Irish Language Act [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern\\_ireland/7162108.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/7162108.stm)

### **Poles Apart**

Bridging the language divide in Wales

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south\\_west/7153526.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_west/7153526.stm)

### **Latin not dead, but dying**

The Vatican's Latin Department expresses concern about the state of Latin

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article3104496.ece>

### **Byron's little black (phrase)book**

A notebook of Lord Byron containing key romantic phrases in several languages has been discovered in Scotland

[http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/books/poetry/article3097652.ece](http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/poetry/article3097652.ece)

### **Joe Dale's brilliant blog**

Praise for Joe Dale's blog is to be found in the Guardian here

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/link/story/0,,2236733,00.html>

## **EVENTS**

**Primary Languages Show 2008 - registration now open**

The 12th annual CILT Primary Languages Show takes place on Friday 29 Feb - Saturday 1 March 2008 at the Manchester Conference Centre. The show offers a full and varied programme to support languages in the primary school, with advice and suggestions for those offering languages for the first time as well as for those who wish to build on existing foundations.

Booking is now open, so don't forget to reserve your place to avoid disappointment. <http://www.cilt.org.uk/pls/>

### **ISMLA 2008**

If you are at an independent school, don't forget to book your place for ISMLA 2008. Taking place on 2nd February at University College School, Hampstead, London, the conference is an opportunity to listen to talks and swap ideas with other MFL teachers. Download your invitation letter and further information from the ISMLA website here <http://www.ismla.co.uk/conference/main.htm>.

### **Joint ISMLA-ALL Spanish teachers' day**

On Tuesday, 26th February 2008, ISMLA and ALL are holding a major conference on the teaching of Spanish at Ampleforth. For details of the programme and how to sign up, visit [www.ismla.co.uk](http://www.ismla.co.uk) and click on the link on the 'news' page.

### **How to read Italian paintings in Italian**

Workshop 4. *Landscape and Cityscape in Italian Painting*; Thursday 6th March 2008 6:00 to 8:30pm. For further information phone: 0208 874 5819 or 07976 564 501 or email:

[Liz@succeedinlanguages.com](mailto:Liz@succeedinlanguages.com).

### **Japanese Speech Contest for University Students**

It's too late to enter your students, but you can still go along and watch on 2nd February at Lecture Theatre 1, Chemical Engineering Building, Imperial College, London. For more details, see <http://www.jpfi.org.uk/language/download/A4leaflet.pdf>.

### **Languages for Europe conference - "Language learning in a multilingual Europe"**

Berlin, 1-2 February 2008. This year's conference will focus on "Language learning in a multilingual Europe" and follow up on some of the questions discussed at this year's event. See <http://www.britishcouncil.de/e/english/conferences.htm> for more details.

### **Language learning and dyslexia symposium**

This symposium is aimed at anybody interested in dyslexia and learning an additional language - either from a learner's or a teacher's perspective. This is an opportunity to come together in a relatively new area and discuss the issues with contributors and colleagues from a broad range of fields. It aims to explore current research as well as to provide lots of examples of best practice. The event takes place on 15th February. For more information, see <http://www.soas.ac.uk/events/event39731.html>.

### **Acknowledging achievement with Asset Languages**

Do you teach Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Gujarati, Mandarin Chinese or any other Community Language? Want to meet others who do the same? Would you like to find out more about assessment? Or would you like to see some tried and tested learning materials? This is an exceptional opportunity for supplementary school teachers to share outcomes of good practice in Community Language teaching and learning. This evening's seminar will focus on recognising students' achievements through Asset Languages, developing a wider network of colleagues and demonstrating the use of Collaborative Learning Activities. Book soon as places are going fast!

18 February 2008, 18:00-20:30, Panjab Restaurant, Upstairs Function Room, 117 Wilmslow Road, Manchester, M14 5AP. FREE; Registration required.

Contact: Chetana Shah 0161 627 5346 [chetanashah@ntlworld.com](mailto:chetanashah@ntlworld.com) or Alice Harrison 0161 483 7916.

### **Flying High Conference 2008**

This conference is for SLCs and all teachers of Languages and is on 7th February in Loughborough. The programme as always focuses on innovative practice and this year there

is a particular emphasis on 14-19 policy, practice and developments. Please book as soon as possible to secure your place. For more information and to register for this event, go to [http://www.cilt.org.uk/languagecolleges/lc\\_events/lc\\_events.htm](http://www.cilt.org.uk/languagecolleges/lc_events/lc_events.htm).

#### **ALL Language World 2008 - booking now open**

Booking has now opened for Language World 2008. This year sees the conference return to the Oxford Examination Halls, so don't forget to book so you can visit us on stand N38! Find out more at <http://www.languageworld.org.uk/home/>.

#### **GCE 2008 Getting Ready to Teach Event - Japanese**

Friday, 25th April 2008. This is a full day event aimed at teachers who will be teaching the new GCE specification from September 2008. Please note this day is run by Edexcel, with cooperation from the Japan Foundation. If you would like to apply, please sign up on Edexcel's website (see link above). The Japan Foundation cannot accept applications. <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/training/event-listing/gce08/japanese/gceimp/dates>.

#### **A Conference on the Teaching of Arabic**

Thursday 6 March 2008 10.00-16.00. The British Council, the Association for Language Learning, CILT, the National Centre for Languages and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust invite you to a Conference on the Teaching of Arabic on Thursday 6 March 2008 at: The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN. Please RSVP Friday 22 February 2008 by e-mail stating your session options (see programme below) to [world.links@britishcouncil.org](mailto:world.links@britishcouncil.org).

#### **SCRSS Russian Seminar: London 2-3 April 2008**

The SCRSS Russian Seminar 2008 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.

Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies (SCRSS), 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB, Telephone: 020 7274 2282 Email: [ruslibrary@btconnect.com](mailto:ruslibrary@btconnect.com). £45 (one day), £80 (two days). Application deadline: 14 March 2007

For more information and to download a copy of the application form, visit the SCRSS website at [www.scrss.org.uk/russianseminar.htm](http://www.scrss.org.uk/russianseminar.htm). Alternatively, send a stamped address envelope to the SCRSS for a copy of the application form.

#### **ALL South West annual conference**

The All South-West Branch is organising its annual morning conference on March 1st at Bradley Stoke School, just off the M4, M5 and with easy access from Parkway Station (quick links to the Midlands, Wales, Cornwall, Reading, London etc). If you wish to receive the programme and booking form as a separate e-mail please contact Marie-France, Oldfield School, ALL South-West <http://mmeperkins.typepad.com>.

#### **Go! to the British Museum**

Zen Machine are running some Go (Weiqi) workshops at the British Museum on 7th and 9th February, as part of the China Now festival. You can find out more about the events here <http://www.zenmachine.co.uk/>.

## **RESOURCES**

#### **Talk 2 gets ISMLA review**

BBC Active's *Talk 2* series has received a glowing review from the Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association. You can read it on their website at <http://www.ismla.co.uk/Reviews/reviews.htm> - just click on 'BBC Talk 2' on the menu to the left hand side, and find out how *Talk 2* can enhance GCSE French, Italian and Spanish at your school.



### **DCSF resources for language teachers**

The DCSF has prepared a number of new language teaching resources that are available free from Teachernet. You can order 'Languages in Key Stage 4: 10 Questions and Answers for School Leaders' on CD-ROM, 'Talking Prospects?', a leaflet for parents on the importance of pupils carrying on with languages post-14 and a new selection of materials to promote and explain the Languages Ladder, namely a booklet, poster pack and desktop display. To find out more and to order your copy, go to <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk>.

### **Your students' mission, should they choose to accept it...**

You may already have come across 'Mission Europe', an online, interactive game where you choose to be a secret agent in either Berlin, Krakow or Paris and solve a case to save their country. It is available in a range of languages, and the reward for completing each mission is an insight into the relative countries and their language and culture. <http://www.missioneurope.eu/index.php>

### **Helen Myers recommends:**

This useful website highlighting the major events of 2008 in France <http://www.linternaute.com/actualite/magazine/dossier/agenda-2008/>

### **Virtual museums of Spain**

The Instituto Cervantes has put together an interesting collection of images showing all the major contemporary art museums of Spain. [http://cvc.cervantes.es/actcult/laberinto\\_museos/default.htm](http://cvc.cervantes.es/actcult/laberinto_museos/default.htm)

### **Scotland-Russia Foundation's top typing tip**

The SRF has offered the recent useful advice for all those blessed with bilingualism and fleet fingers:

'If you are a touch typist you don't want to look at the keyboard when typing - but sometimes your fingers can't find less common letters, esp when typing in Russian. It helps to add a keyboard plan to the screen:

""Click on start (lower left corner), then programs, then accessories and then accessibility and then on screen keyboard (you may want to create a short cut to this). This will then show your keyboard (and stay in front of the application you are working on so you can always see it, or use it to enter characters)."

'(advice from the SEELANGs network)'.  
'

### **Blog on and branch out**

Following a Linguanet enquiry, Joe Dale and Ewan McIntosh have recommended the following sites for all those hoping to start their own podcasts:

<http://www.LTScotland.org.uk/mfle>

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/2007/10/blogging-and-po.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/2007/10/blogging-and-po.html)

<http://www.bteducation.org/img/lib/dialogics/AssignmentPodcast/index.html>

[http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating\\_ict\\_into\\_the\\_/podcasting/index.html](http://joedale.typepad.com/integrating_ict_into_the_/podcasting/index.html)

### **CILT Languages Work Activity Guide**

The new guide provides comprehensive support for anyone using the suite of Languages Work resources to inspire students to think seriously about careers in languages.



Written for use by teachers, careers advisers, foreign language assistants, language student 'ambassadors', or external industry representatives, it comprises ideas for presentations and activities suitable for use in various contexts, including assemblies, options evenings, classes, large or small groups, and also suggestions for activities that students can do themselves. The full range of Languages Work resources includes the website, activity and fact sheets, postcards, posters, PowerPoint presentations and CD-ROM.

The Activity guide contains photocopiable materials that can be used together with the Languages Work range, along with suggestions for activities and advice on setting up and running sessions for users who are not education professionals.

For further information see <http://www.languageswork.org.uk/resources/guide.htm>.

The Languages Work Activity Guide (ISBN 978-1-904243-72-4) costs £12 (full price) and is available to order from Central Books. Place your order before the end of January, to receive a 15% discount on the cover price.

Tel: 0845 458 9910; Fax: 0845 458 9912; Email: [mo@centralbooks.com](mailto:mo@centralbooks.com) Web:

[www.centralbooks.com](http://www.centralbooks.com)

### **Task Magic - French and German**

Andrew Baalam from High Wycombe has made available 'oodles of Task Magic exercises for French and German on the Languages Online site': <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>.

Apparently Spanish is coming soon...

### **French website**

Linguanetter Julia Whyte has recommended the following site for pupils to use at home:

<http://phonetique.free.fr/alpha.htm>

### **Language Festivals**

John Perry, co-ordinator of the Language Festivals project, has flagged his 2007 Lingua 1 project 'Language Festivals', which aimed to raise interest and awareness of language learning amongst the general public in 6 countries. The languages promoted were Czech, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. They now have a website containing information about how the festivals were run, the successes etc and contacts for further work. Have a look at [www.languagefestivals.eu](http://www.languagefestivals.eu) - they welcome feedback.

## **SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS**



### **European Award for Languages**

DEADLINE: 1ST FEBRUARY 2008

You still have a chance to apply for the European Award for Languages, if you really hurry...find out more about it here <http://www.cilt.org.uk/eal/>.

### **Free Spirit Songs and Poems Competition**

The European Language Award winning competition is open to pupils aged 10-18 in Primary, Middle and Secondary schools in the UK. Entries can be made in following categories:

French, German, Spanish or Other Languages; the eight winning poems and songs in each category (from any age group) will receive a £50 prize. The competition is run in association with Comenius South West, L'Institut Français du Royaume-Uni and the Goethe Institut, with assistance from the Spanish Embassy Education Office. For more information and an entry form, please visit the Comenius South West website <http://www.comenius-sw.co.uk/3.html> or contact [reespiritpoetry@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:reespiritpoetry@blueyonder.co.uk).

### **Language Trends**

CILT'S annual Language Trends survey is now available to browse online. Read more about how your subject is fairing in secondary schools at

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/research/language Trends/2007/secondary.htm>.

### **ALL essay competition**

Students learning Russian at Schools, Colleges and Universities in the UK, including heritage learners, are invited to participate in the Second Russian Essay Competition 2008. The competition has been organised by the Russian Committee of the Association for Language Learning (ALL) <http://www.all-languages.org.uk>  
The deadline is 14 March and winners will be announced by 30 April 2008. For full details of the competition contact Natalia Tronenko [natalia@tronenko.com](mailto:natalia@tronenko.com)

### **Stephen Spender Poetry Translation Competition**

Translate a poem from any language, classical or modern, into English. Three categories: Open, 18-and-under and 14-and-under. Cash prizes. All winning entries published in a booklet. Last posting date for entries Friday 23 May 2008.

For details and entry forms go to [www.stephen-spender.org](http://www.stephen-spender.org). To read last year's winning entries, visit the website or email [info@stephenspender.org](mailto:info@stephenspender.org) for a free copy of the booklet.

### **QCA Consultation on new language provision for the ASL of the Diploma**

The following information is related to the Diplomas linked to the 14 lines of learning (Construction, Engineering etc) and not to the recently announced discrete Languages Diploma which is still to be developed.

The first five Diplomas linked to the 14 lines of learning will be available for teaching from September 2008. The subject areas of these first five Diplomas are ICT, Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment, Society, Health and Development and Creative and Media. Languages can be offered as an option within the Additional/Specialist component of all of these Diplomas and for 2008, any current language qualification on the Section 96 Qualifications page (<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/section96/>) of the DCSF website can be offered. For 2008, the languages element must be offered at the same level as the main Diploma and must be a full qualification.

The QCA is carrying out a consultation on what the future languages element might be post 2008 and they are asking for opinions on a proposed new qualification. The QCA online survey can be accessed at [http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_15591.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_15591.aspx). This is your chance to add your voice to the discussion and please bring this consultation to the attention of your colleagues. The consultation is open until 15 February.

For further information on languages in the Diplomas, please go to the CILT website on <http://www.cilt.org.uk/14-19/diplomas.htm>

### **CHINESE NEW YEAR WEBSITES**

On 7th February 2008, it will be the Chinese Year of the Rat. Help your class celebrate with these great websites and resources. Kung hei fat choy!

There is a website promoting the China Now in Scotland festival, running from Chinese New Year until 30th November 2008. They have some fantastic downloadable resource packs for both primary and secondary schools, which include material that could be used for other age groups <http://www.chinainnow-scotland.org.uk/index.htm>. There is also interesting information on events taking place throughout the UK at <http://www.chinainnow.org.uk/>  
General information about the last few Chinese new year celebrations, together with some interesting and colourful links <http://www.chinapage.com/newyear.html> and <http://www.fengshuiweb.co.uk/advice/newyearchinese2008.htm>.

Downloadable worksheets of each animal are available here <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/coloring-pages/chinese-new-year/>

Some fantastic activity suggestions, downloadable resources and interesting links from the Kent National Grid for Learning <http://www.kented.org.uk/ngfl/festivals/chinese.htm>  
Lots to download, including Chinese new year jigsaws and colouring sheets. Beware of the pop-ups, however. [http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese\\_new\\_year.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese_new_year.htm). It is also worth looking at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/>; if you scroll past the adverts, then it has some interesting ideas for activities and also background on China and the lunar calendar, for example.

A whole lesson plan is available at <http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TLresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/chinese.html>, but n.b. this is an American website.

More crafts and recipe ideas are available here  
[http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/chinese\\_new\\_year.html](http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/chinese_new_year.html)  
How Ken is planning to celebrate Chinese New Year in  
London [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/chinese\\_ny/index.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/chinese_ny/index.jsp)

*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**

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