

Welcome to the 88th BBC Active Language Teachers' Newsletter

Well, the honeymoon's over and it's back to reality and the 88th Newsletter. Still, there's a lot of exciting things going on, starting with the publication of *Talk Arabic* and an article from the author explaining what the bestselling, communicative *Talk* approach means for *Talk Arabic*.

There's also news on MYLO, various articles on the provision of MFL at a variety of levels and a whole raft of newly recommended resources.

I do hope to see many of you at The Language Show this weekend, but if you can't make it you have the opportunity to take advantage of our 30% Show discount from the comfort of your own home! Go to: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TheLanguageShow.aspx> any time before Tuesday 3rd November to find out more.

I hope that this newsletter was worth the wait, and that you enjoy reading it.

Susie

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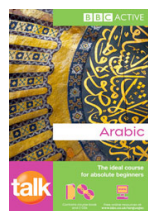
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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE



Talk Arabic - in the shops

Talk Arabic is now published and in the shops.

It has already attracted praise, including this assessment from **Haroon Shirwani, Head of Arabic at Eton**: The dialogues and speaking exercises are very well put together, both in terms of content and form - substantial, and realistic, yet clear and doable, while providing a sense of continual progress. I also like the way the alphabet is introduced, gradually, with some nifty little exercises. I love the use of menus as bilingual texts, providing learners who manage to crack the alphabet with an opportunity to practise their reading.

To give you a flavour of the approach we have taken in *Talk Arabic*, here is a brief article by Jonathan Featherstone, the *Talk Arabic* author. Jonathan is also the Arabic Instructor at Edinburgh University's Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World: *Talk Arabic* is the latest addition to the bestselling *Talk* series and has all of the features that have made these courses so popular, as well as new sections introducing Arabic script.

Many learners new to studying Arabic may not be aware that it has different forms for the written and spoken language. This co-existence of two distinct forms of a language is known as diglossia. The language of most printed matter in the Arab World – including books, newspapers, magazines and official documents – is Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), while spoken (or colloquial) Arabic varies from region to region. These regional variations are known as dialects, of which there are considered to be five major variants:

- Maghrebi (North Africa)
- Egyptian
- Levant (Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan)
- Iraqi
- Gulf

The dialects are the language of everyday social interaction. MSA remains the language for more formal spoken situations such as news broadcasts, speeches and interviews.

Although MSA and spoken Arabic share many common structures, there are some marked differences in vocabulary and grammar and so any Arabic course has to opt either for MSA or one of the dialects. In keeping with the approach of the *Talk* series with its focus on communication skills, *Talk Arabic* has chosen to use Levantine Arabic for its dialogues and activities as it is one of the most widely-spoken of the dialects. In order to speed up the learning process the language is presented in transliteration using roman script.

The dialects share features which do not exist in MSA, and so any learner wanting to use *Talk Arabic* to travel in Arabic-speaking countries will find themselves broadly understood. They will also be able to have a go at reading signs and menus as the script is introduced in discrete sections throughout the book, complete with mini activities.

Although the majority of learners who choose *Talk Arabic* are likely to be total beginners, it is also suitable for those who have already studied Modern Standard Arabic but want to learn a dialect for travel and other everyday situations. *Talk Arabic* is suitable for a first level qualification, such as the Breakthrough level of the national Languages Ladder.

You can see sample pages and order your copy from our website at:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/OurProducts/Arabic/ProductViewer.aspx?ISBN=9781406652932>. If you would be interested in evaluating *Talk Arabic* with a view to adopting it for your students, you can either drop me an email on: susanna.shapland@pearson.com, or fill out the form at: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/evaluationcopies.aspx>.

New BBC Active language teachers' catalogue

The latest BBC Active language teachers' catalogue is now available. If you would like to receive a copy, just drop me an email at: susanna.shapland@pearson.com with your delivery address.



Special Language Show discount!

Can't make it to The Language Show? Still want to take advantage of 30% off on every single BBC Active language course and resource?

Then go to:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TheLanguageShow.aspx> between Thursday 29th October and Tuesday 3rd November! The discount will be applied throughout the site, and you just need to click 'Add to Basket' to see how much your item of choice will cost at 30% off. There

is also free P&P on all standard deliveries throughout Europe.

The French Experience and Sueños World Spanish - special offer to pass on to your students

Our much-loved classic courses have already helped millions learn French and Spanish. To celebrate the *French Experience Tutor's Guide* and the *Sueños World Spanish Instructor's Manual* being made available to download for free from our website, we are offering 25% off the book and CD packs and 50% off the activity books for these courses when you or your students buy through our website!



All you need to do is go to: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/SpecialOffers.aspx>. If you click on the book covers or the 'Add to Basket' icons, you will see the discounted price. Please do pass this URL on to your students, then they will be treated to the same special discount, and can get themselves kitted out at a bargain price.

This offer applies to:

9780563472612 *The French Experience 1* book and CD pack **£29.57 instead of £39.42**
9780563472575 *The French Experience 1 Activity Book* **£4 instead of £7.99**
9780563519119 *The French Experience 2* book and CD pack **£29.99 instead of £39.99**
9780563472513 *Sueños World Spanish 1* book and CD pack **£29.99 instead of £39.99**
9780563472476 *Sueños World Spanish 1 Activity Book* **£3.50 instead of £6.99**
9780563519140 *Sueños World Spanish 2* book and CD pack **£29.99 instead of £39.99**

The French Experience and *Sueños World Spanish* are both available at beginner and intermediate level. Apart from the *Tutor's Guide* and *Instructor's Manual*, they also have some great free online resources available from the BBC Languages website.

The French Experience comes with the following free resources:

Level 1 - *Tutor's Guide* can be downloaded from:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesFrench/tabid/96/Default.aspx>

and this page also has links to the relevant TV transcripts and online activities.

Level 2 - For links to the TV transcripts and online activities for this course, go to:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesFrench/tabid/96/Default.aspx>.

Sueños World Spanish comes with the following free resources:

Level 1 - *Instructor's Manual* can be downloaded from:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesSpanish/tabid/97/Default.aspx>

and this page also has links to the relevant TV transcripts and online activities...

...or you can use these courses with the latest interactive resources from BBC Languages, *Ma France* and *Mi Vida Loca!* See: www.bbc.co.uk/languages for more details.

Please note that this offer will be suspended for the duration of The Language Show, when these courses will be available to buy at the Show discount of 30% off. The 25% discount will become available again from Wednesday 4th November.

Up to 50% off with Amazon.co.uk

A new Autumn promotion on a wide range of BBC Active courses and resources has been set up on Amazon. Just go to: <http://tiny.cc/kKKHb> to see the full range of products on offer and start saving.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

***New* What's So Funny About German?**

Enjoy comedian Henning Wehn's original take on his own language with this new, light-hearted series of videos, coming soon. Don't miss 'Berlin', a new series to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, starting on 14 November on BBC Two. If it inspires you to learn some German, try the online course for beginners, *German Steps*, set in Berlin: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/ij/>.

***New look* Talks**

We've revamped these popular and practical courses for beginners with improved quality videos. The activities will add variety and interest to a lesson, ensuring learners enjoy a stimulating and motivating language learning experience:

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

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

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

Talk German: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/talk/>.

Talk French Tutor's guide: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/talk//french/frintro.htm>.

Talk Spanish Tutor's guide: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/talk//spanish/spintro.htm>.

Talk Italian Tutor's guide: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/talk//Italian/itintro.htm>.

Talk German Tutor's guide: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/talk//German/geintro.htm>.

The Language Show

Join us at The Language Show at Olympia, London on Saturday 31st October at 12pm. Don't miss the UK's biggest event for language learners, language teachers, linguists and anyone with a passion for languages. Get help, advice and resources needed to learn or teach languages all under one roof. See you there!

The Language Show: <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/>.

Get some Learning Tips: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/learning_tips.shtml.

Start Steps

Chosen a language and starting from scratch? Sign up for the free email tips to give you all the advice and encouragement you need to learn the basics and help you through *French*, *Spanish*, *German* or *Italian Steps* courses in just 12 weeks:

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

Spanish Festival Phrases

¡Estoy reventado! With the clubbing season coming to a close, improve your street cred and keep your cool while clubbing in Ibiza with these essential Spanish phrases. Download them to your mp3 player or phone so you're all set for next year's parties!

Spanish phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/quickfix/festival.shtml>.

Quick Fix - we need your help!

We're looking to make some tweaks to our Quick Fix pages and want YOU to help us! How do you use the phrases in class? How could we improve them so students get more practice from them? Do let us know your views on: languages@bbc.co.uk.

Quick Fix: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/quickfix/>.

Languages on TV

Languages programmes on BBC Two's Learning Zone won't return until next year but in the meantime, keep an eye on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/> for interesting language and culture-related programmes on TV and radio and don't forget 'Berlin', starting on 14 November on BBC Two.

Have you checked out the new Learning Zone Class Clips yet? Simply search the database for useful, rich audio-visual material to use in your classroom. The short videos have been selected to match the curriculum and can be used in a variety of ways:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>.

NATIONAL NEWS

What is language?

An overview of the current debates around this eternal question is given courtesy of the Goethe Institut at: <http://www.goethe.de/ges/phi/prj/ffs/the/spr/en4980320.htm>. There are other interesting articles on language available here:

<http://www.goethe.de/ges/phi/prj/ffs/the/spr/enindex.htm>.

'State schools are abandoning modern languages'

GCSE results soar, but at what cost? Results are up, but numbers are down, although the Government claims to have 'elevated' MFL by introducing it in primary schools:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/oct/15/gcses-state-schools-pass-rate>.

and

Degrees 'rely on private pupils'

MFL is flagged as one of the degree subjects that are kept alive by the intake from private schools: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8291320.stm> and

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6862895.ece.

Report calls for languages to be part of university internationalisation strategies

Michael Worton's review of languages provision in higher education, published yesterday, calls for a rethink of the functions of languages in universities and for a refreshed vision of the importance and value of languages to be shared by government departments, schools, universities and businesses. He wants an appreciation of languages in intellectual and public life, as is the case with science, in order to avoid Anglophone Britons becoming one of the most monolingual peoples in the world, unable to operate effectively in the global environment.

You can read the report at: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2009/worton.htm>.

There is also more information on the CILT website:

http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/research_and_statistics/research/research_digests/he_languages_review.aspx.

Writing wrong?

More than 50 years after a major overhaul of the way in which Chinese characters were written, a far less ambitious project to simplify just a few dozen ideograms has provoked controversy: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/expatnews/6397426/Chinese-kick-up-a-fuss-over-changes-to-written-language.html>.

Language courses are being 'dumbed down'

Universities are accused of 'dumbing down' foreign language degrees to attract more students as numbers fall: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/oct/20/language-degrees-student-numbers>.

Exchanges under threat

Foreign exchanges are under threat from stringent child protection rules. It's the pupils who will suffer, says The Times:

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6879295.ece and

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article6887803.ece.

Your country needs YOU

Fluent speakers of foreign languages are in hot demand in the civil and secret services:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/getting-job/for-queen-and-country-fluent-speakers-of-foreign-languages-are-in-hot-demand-in-the-civil-and-secret-services-1802621.html>.

An online approach to revolutionise language learning

A round-up of the latest ideas on language learning, including the Open School for Languages/MYLO: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/different-class-how-a-new-online-approach-aims-to-revolutionise-language-learning-1802620.html>.

CILT warns against lack of second language

An article stressing the absolute importance of learning another language:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/getting-job/kathryn-board-graduates-without-a-second-language-are-disadvantaged-when-looking-for-jobs-1802619.html>.

How Chinese lessons are taking off in schools

'Why Chinese lessons are booming', especially in Kingsford Community School:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/look-east-why-chinese-lessons-are-booming-1799026.html>.

Sprechen Sie Twitter?

Twitter is becoming multilingual, with support for French, Italian, German and Spanish languages in the development stage: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/sprechen-sie-twitter-1800672.html>.

Parliamo Glesca?

A recent newspaper advertisement seeking 'speakers of 'Glaswegian English' has sparked a plethora of articles around the wonders of the Glaswegian dialect: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6873605.ece>, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8308288.stm>.

Asterix turns 50

Asterix celebrates 50 years of holding out against the Romans this month - but anniversary festivities have been marred by squabbling between French villages over who was the inspiration for the warrior's hamlet of indomitable Gauls: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/booknews/6347362/Asterix-turns-50-as-French-villages-squabble-over-inspiration-for-Gaul.html> and <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/expatnews/6345931/Half-a-century-on-Asterix-retains-his-magic.html>.

Plinth petition

A languages graduate with no job unfurled his CV on the fourth plinth in a bid to find work: <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23739103-graduate-with-no-job-unfurls-cv-on-plinth-and-gets-work.do;jsessionid=86071869F3F2A87DEBB88093AF7B608F>. Another languages student has chosen to use his time on the plinth to protest about cuts to language courses at Imperial: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=407396&c=1>. You can read more about the plinth and download videos of each plinther at: <http://www.oneandother.co.uk/>.

Pupils play madame in language class

How pupils at a primary school in London make the most of their community languages: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8244156.stm>.

Poor language skills 'hamper UK'

The UK will be held back as it seeks to emerge from recession unless it boosts the number of language graduates, campaigners say: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8244716.stm>. This view is echoed by an article in *Guardian Careers*: <http://careers.guardian.co.uk/careers-blog/working-abroad1>.

Auf Wiedersehen, dept?

Leicester University's German department is the latest to consider closure, as students opt for 'warmer' languages such as Spanish and French: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/sep/22/german-university-departments-closure>.

What is lost when a language dies?

An estimated 7,000 languages are being spoken around the world. But that number is expected to shrink rapidly in the coming decades. What is lost when a language dies?: http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_8311000/8311069.stm.

EVENTS

All the events where I'll be exhibiting are listed at:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/Events.aspx>. Check back regularly for more details on Language World 2010 and more.

The Language Show

It's not too late to come and visit us at The Language Show! Read more about where and when at: <http://www.thelanguageshow.co.uk/>. For what *The Independent* has to say about The Language Show, see: <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/the-language-show-in-association-with-the-independent-1798033.html>.

London Greek Film Festival

There's just time to plan your visit to the London Greek Film Festival 2009, which runs 30th October to 1st November. Find out more at: <http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/>.

CILT's Primary Show 2010

CILT have invited people to join them for the 14th annual CILT Primary Languages Show 12th–13th March 2010, ACC, Liverpool, by saying that 'the 14th annual CILT Primary Languages Show aims to inspire, challenge and develop the teaching and learning of languages in the primary school. The full and varied programme of workshops provides a wealth of opportunities for delegates to share and explore exciting and innovative ideas'. You can read more information at:

http://www.cilt.org.uk/events/Primary_Languages_Show_2010.aspx, or register online.

Don't forget...

For news on regional events you can start by looking on the LLAS website at:

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/e-bulletin.aspx>, or the ALL website at: <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events.asp>, or the (brand new) CILT website at: <http://www.cilt.org.uk/events.aspx>.

Goethe Institut 20th anniversary party

On 9th November 2009 there will be a party at the Goethe-Institut London celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Wall with music, films and live events. Email:

info@london.goethe.org for more information.

EUROCALL 2009 Conference

Videos of the plenary speakers, their PowerPoint presentations and handouts are now available at the following link: <http://eurocall.webs.upv.es/eurocall2009/speakers.php>.

Virtual roundtable on MFL and ICT

Call for participation in the virtual conference on "Language Learning with Technology" on 12th-13th November 2009. For further details, see: <http://virtual-roundtable.ning.com/page/conference-1>.

ICT show and tell day

Joe Dale and other luminaries of ICT in MFL are speaking at the MFL Show and Tell 2009, 0930-1600 on Saturday 14th November 2009 at Foxford School and Community Arts College, Coventry. The idea of the MFL Show and Tell session is to give teachers an opportunity to share good practice on the use of technology in the classroom in a relaxed, informal environment. For more information, and to book, visit:

<http://joedale.wikispaces.com/MFL+Show+and+Tell+09>.

RESOURCES

A message from MYLO

Tom Bradley, Creative Lead on the Open School for Languages at Lightbox Education, has circulated the following email:

As you may have heard, we have recently released a preview website for a new government funded languages service: MYLO <http://mylo.dcsf.gov.uk/>.

As part of this early work, we're really keen to get feedback about people's first impressions, so it would be great if you could take the time to complete our survey. There's only 8 questions, so it shouldn't take

long... http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Y_2f8GjpcDGX9n7QgfOgE7iA_3d_3d.

I know there's not much there now, but we want to be sure that we are producing something

of the highest quality, so that learners and teachers will be really excited about the complete service when it launches in Spring 2010. Thanks in advance.

A song for être in the PC

This was recommended on the MFL Resources Forum - a fun way to help your students remember how to use être in the passé composé, complete with lyrics (to the tune of 'Umbrella' by Rhianna): <http://misswybrow.blogspot.com/2008/07/etre-song.html>.

Another wonderful blog!

Following the feature on MFL teaching blogs in the last newsletter, Vincent Everett has drawn my attention to Northgate High School's blog. It is 'designed to provide our pupils with guidance and resources to follow up their own interest in languages outside the classroom, so it could well be of interest to others!' There are lots of useful links to relevant sites, examples of work and resources to download. Do have a look for yourself at: <http://languagesatnorthgate.wordpress.com>.

France Aventures - un jeu pédagogique

Someone on the MFL Resources Forum has recommended the following Finnish website: <http://www.edu.fi/oppimateriaalit/franceaventures/>.

Sublime Spanish subjunctive resources

This website has been recommended as having excellent resources for teaching the dreaded Spanish subjunctive: <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>, as has this: <http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm>.

Goethe Institut gadget for your iGoogle home

For those with an iGoogle homepage, the Goethe Institut have developed a special gadget to keep you up to date with all the latest (German) news: http://www.google.com/ig/adde?hl=de&moduleurl=hosting.gmodules.com/ig/gadgets/file/111309209871599366652/goethe_gadget_en.xml&source=imag.

Online activities

An MFL Resources Forum member has drawn attention to their school's website, which holds free resources for a variety of languages and levels. It is apparently a work in progress, so should be growing visibly. Keep an eye on it for yourself at: <http://www.sagelanguages.co.uk/>.

J'aime les chansons!

This site has been recommended by Marie-France Perkins as a great source of French songs to help make learning fun: <http://platea.pntic.mec.es/~cvera/hotpot/chansons/index.htm>.

Boowa and Kwala

This quirky site has songs and stories in French and English. Click on the flag in the top left hand corner to change the language of your selected story: <http://www.boowakwala.com/enfants/boowakwala-home.html>.

Raising the profile of languages

Promoting languages and the work of your department to pupils, the senior management team (SMT), to parents and the community can have far-reaching benefits, raising the profile of language learning and helping to encourage the take-up of languages after KS3. TeacherNet's ideas and guidance can help raise the profile of languages. There are also case studies and links to further resources and information. See: http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/educationoverview/currentstrategy/raising_profile_languages/?cid=firstbite&pla=13Oct09&type=email.

Tongue twisters in many tongues!

Recommended on the MFL Resources Forum, this website has a collection of tongue twisters in a dizzying array of languages: <http://www.uebersetzung.at/twister/>.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

ISMLA-ALL survey on MFL exam results

ISMLA and ALL-London have just launched an online survey. Links are possible from both the ALL-London and ISMLA websites: <http://www.ismla.co.uk/> and <http://www.all-london.org.uk/>.

Nick Mair, Chair of ISMLA and vice-chair of ALL-London, says: 'We make no assumptions about what may have happened as the survey preamble makes clear - and simply observe that many schools have found it difficult to match results with their expectations. With this in mind we have deliberately allowed some distance between results day and the survey.'

'The discrepancy between grades and expectations in some cases has been so marked that we hope the survey will help clarify how improvements can be made. The survey will remain anonymous (though for obvious reasons we require contributor name and school). The (anonymous) results will be made available via the websites. We are keen to hear from schools who feel the results are as they should be, as well as those who feel this is not the case. Please spend a few minutes completing the survey. You decide the results!'

The closing date of the survey is 15th November 2009.

LAFTAs 2010

If you are looking for a fun way to get teenagers thinking about the value of languages, why not encourage them to make an entry for this year's LAFTAs competition? The Languages and Film Talent Award (LAFTAs) is a UK-wide competition which invites 13-21 year olds to make two-minute films about why languages are important. Entries can come from groups or individuals, making this an ideal classroom activity to get teenagers practicing their languages skills.

Judges in this year's competition include Double Olympic Champion Sebastian Coe and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory star Freddie Highmore. Prizes include trips to Germany, France and Spain. This year's competition includes a special London 2012 theme linking languages to the Olympics – the prize is a class trip to the Olympic Village and a visit to your school by an Olympic Athlete! All entries will be uploaded to the LAFTAs YouTube page, where you can currently watch some of last year's winning clips: www.youtube.com/thelaftas. The deadline for entries is 1st February 2010. To find out more and to enter the competition, visit: www.languageswork.org.uk/laftas.

Linguistics: How much do school leavers know about language?

The Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) would like those who teach first-year undergraduates to take part in a very brief audit of school-leavers' (explicit) grammatical knowledge. The audit uses a short two-part questionnaire which was first used in 1986, then again in 1997, so the results will reveal long-term trends as well as informing your teaching. You can download the questionnaire from their website:

www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/ba-kal/ba-kal.htm#2009.

LinkedUp goes live

The application form and guidelines for the LinkedUp award scheme are now available to download. The scheme offers funding for curriculum development projects carried out by groups of language teachers and other partners working in primary, secondary or 16-19 education in England. The scheme will fund more than 100 projects which aim to transform the language learning experience of learners.

LinkedUp will:

- fund a variety of projects, in both size and scope
- help networks which already exist to take innovative and effective ideas further
- encourage new networks to come together to develop projects
- encourage collaboration between different organisations and sectors
- provide a mentor for each funded project
- will award the "Links Mark", to all schools and institutions involved in successful projects
- connect with a range of networks to ensure that the results of the projects have impact and sustainability.

For more information, or to download an application form, please visit:

<http://www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/linkedup/index.html>, or contact Ingrid Nyaundi: ingridn@all-languages.org.uk.

Canning House Essay Competition

Canning House is pleased to announce that the Fourth Canning House Essay Competition will be running this autumn. This year's theme is 'Climate change and Latin America and/or Iberia'.

Essays must be written in either Spanish or Portuguese. This competition is open to students aged 17-19, both those who are learning Spanish or Portuguese as a foreign language and those from the diaspora communities in the UK.

NEW GAP YEAR CATEGORY: This year there is a new category for students aged 18-19, who have the opportunity to win a gap year in Latin America worth up to £2000, courtesy of Latitude.

Students who want to be considered for this prize should write an essay in Spanish or Portuguese on the topic: 'I want to spend a gap year in Brazil/Ecuador/Mexico/Argentina because...'.

For more information, see: www.canninghouse.org, email: education-outreach@canninghouse.org or call: 020 7235 2303 x 227.

The PM's Global Fellowship

The Prime Minister's Global Fellowship is managed by the British Council on behalf of the Department of Children, Schools and Families. This fully-funded scheme is designed to give school leavers an unparalleled first-hand experience of globalisation by spending 6 weeks in the rapidly developing countries of Brazil, China or India. While in their host country the participants undertake a language course, live with a local family and attend a local school, and spend time as a guest of a large global company (such as HSBC, Virgin Atlantic or Cadbury).

Who are they looking for?

- 18-19 year olds
- Self-starters who are motivated by and interested in learning
- Good communicators
- Those who are mature and sensitive to other cultures or people
- Not necessarily those of the academic or social elite (academic ability is not one of the selection criteria)

If you know of any people in your school who fit that description, please encourage them to take a closer look at the programme and apply online. All applicants require a short reference from a teacher or qualified youth worker to support their application.

For more information, contact the team at: info@global-fellowship.org. Applications are open online until 18th December 2009 at: www.global-fellowship.org.

EAL: CILT is on the look-out for the UK's most innovative projects

With applications now open for next year's prestigious European Award for Languages, the search is on for the UK's most innovative language learning projects. Schools, colleges, adult education and community projects are being encouraged to apply ahead of the deadline on 31st January 2010: www.cilt.org.uk/eal.

The European Award for Languages is a Europe-wide initiative which recognises and celebrates new ways to inspire and motivate language learners at all levels. This year, the award highlighted all sorts of wonderful initiatives, from inter-country novel writing projects to exciting Spanish singing competitions. Partnerships and community involvement were key themes.

Kate Board, Chief Executive of CILT said, 'I am continuously impressed by the exciting and innovative projects I see happening in languages classrooms across the country. This award is a fantastic way of recognising and rewarding those efforts – and showing others just how much fun can be had with languages.'

To qualify for a European Language Award, language projects must provide an inspiration to others, be replicable, and involve any language other than English. Shortlisted projects will be visited by a panel of expert judges, who will compile a list of the ones they found most innovative. Winners will attend a prize-giving ceremony in June at the famous Emirates Stadium in London, where they will be able to display and share their projects.

There will be special prizes available, including the annual Mary Glasgow Award of £2000.

You can find out about all of last year's winning projects by visiting www.cilt.org.uk/eal.

For further information contact Alice Moran, Press and Marketing Coordinator, CILT, the National Centre for Languages, or email her at: alice.moran@cilt.org.uk, or call her on: 020 7633 3319.

Yomiuri Photo Grand Prix

The last newsletter carried details of the Yomiuri Photo Grand Prix, which is now open to students outside of Japan. This is just to remind you that the deadline for applications is 10th November, so if you are interested in applying, please do so soon! Read more at:

<http://yomiuri.tjf.or.jp/>.

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.shapland@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 Teachers' Club, then you can contact me at susanna.shapland@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution, or sign up online at www.bbcactivelanguages.com.

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