

Welcome to the 91st BBC Active newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome to another newsletter. I hope you had a restful break and that 2010 has treated you well so far. It is already shaping up to be an interesting year.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and as always welcome thoughts, contributions or feedback. Please do contact me on: susanna.shapland@pearson.com.

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

Euro PDFs - free worksheets for our longer courses

Some of you may be familiar with a selection of worksheets entitled 'Euro PDFs' that we used to have on our old website. We did not put them on our new website as we did not think anyone used them. However, I have recently been contacted by a German tutor looking for the 'very good worksheets' for Deutsch Plus that used to be on our website ... I have reinstated the Deutsch Plus Euro Worksheets at:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesGerman.aspx#deutschPlus>, so please do have a look if you use Deutsch Plus.

I have posted similar worksheets for Italianissimo, Sueños 1 and The French Experience 1. They can be accessed and downloaded from the following locations:

Italianissimo:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesItalian/tabid/98/Default.aspx#italianissimo>.

Sueños:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesSpanish/tabid/97/Default.aspx#suenosWorldSpanish1>.

The French Experience:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesFrench/tabid/96/Default.aspx#frenchExperience1>.

Talk French, German and Portuguese tutors' notes

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are in the process of converting the older Talk tutors' notes into downloadable PDFs. The first sets to receive this treatment are the Talk

French, German and Portuguese notes, which are now available to download from the following locations:

French: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesFrench.aspx#talk>

German: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesGerman.aspx#talk>

Portuguese:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesPortuguese.aspx#talk>

The other Talk notes will be receiving a similar treatment in the coming months, so watch this space!

If you do have any comments or feedback on this, please do email me on:

susanna.shapland@pearson.com.

NEWS FROM BBC

Phrase of the Day

This month's highlight, in French: Quel m'as-tu-vu! - What a show-off!

Pick up a new phrase in French, Spanish, German or Italian every day: subscribe to the feed at: www.bbc.co.uk/languages or visit the page daily.

It's Carnival Time!

While we're tossing pancakes, others are donning scary masks and colourful costumes. Join the party and discover how Carnival is celebrated around the world.

Why does the popular Venetian doctor mask have a long nose and why is it a 'Fat' Tuesday?

Find out more quirky carnival facts in our quiz: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/carnival/>.

Discover Brazil, home to the world's biggest carnival, with Brazil Inside Out:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/brazil_insideout/rio/.

Or lose yourself in enchanting Venice with beginners' course Italian Steps:

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

Valentine's Phrases

On the pull or want to impress your intended? Download chat-up lines and woo your loved one in another language.

Italian: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/cool/pulling_flash.shtml.

German: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/cool/pulling_flash.shtml.

French: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/cool/pulling_flash.shtml.

Try speed dating with Ma France, our course for post-beginners:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/dating/summary.shtml>, or read the

romantic story of Polish ex-pat Bogdan and English divorcee Sarah:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/polish/soap/challenge/>.

Chinese New Year

14th Feb is not just Valentine's Day this year. Celebrate New Year all over again by welcoming the Chinese Year of the Tiger!

Get a taste for Chinese with games:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/games/index.shtml>.

Try beginners' course Real Chinese, a lively introduction to Mandarin with video clips plus basic phrases, pronunciation tips, grammar and cultural notes:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese, or read about Chris from London's

exciting experience of New Year celebrations in Beijing:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/chris_china_diary/march_07_may_06/chinese_new_year.shtml.

Half-term Holiday Phrases

Whether you're chasing the sun in the Canaries or skiing the slopes of Switzerland, don't forget our quick-fix phrases. Download them to your mobile or mp3 player and take them with you: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/mobile/>, or listen, read and print on our website.

French: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/quickfix/ski.shtml>.

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

German: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/quickfix/ski.shtml>.

Italian: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/quickfix/ski.shtml>.

Intermediate French

New look improved videos and full-screen option for The French Experience 2, our TV series filmed across the French-speaking world. C'est quelque chose d'extraordinaire!
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/experience2/>.

Languages on TV

Languages programmes on BBC Two's Learning Zone will return in May - more details nearer the time.

In the meantime, find interesting language and culture-related programmes in the TV panel on our home page: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/>.

Also, have you checked out the new Learning Zone Class Clips yet? Search for useful, rich audio-visual material to use at home or in the classroom: the clips have been selected to match the curriculum:

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Primary pupils should learn 'more useful' languages

Primary school pupils should learn Mandarin and Arabic to help UK businesses, the government said today. The Schools Secretary, Ed Balls, said UK plc increasingly needed children to learn the languages of countries where Britain had 'very important business contacts': <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/jan/04/modernlanguages-languages>, http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6975147.ece, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/balls-opens-door-to-primary-school-mandarin-lessons-1857536.html>, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/6931688/Mandarin-for-all-pupils-says-Ed-Balls.html> and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8439959.stm>.

Balls was also slated for subjecting schools to an 'initiative a week':

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6985455.ece.

GCSE league tables: languages in decline

The study of foreign languages is in 'crisis':

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/league/6981279/GCSE-league-tables-languages-in-decline.html>.

Language Trends: Pressures on schools and pupils limit prospects of recovery for languages

The results of the latest Language Trends survey show that the number of students choosing to take a language at 14 is still in decline. The findings, based on a survey sent to 2000 schools in England, revealed that the proportion of schools where more than 50% of pupils study a language in year 10 has dropped from 45% in 2008-9 to 40% in the current school year. Interestingly, the survey shows that it is not due to disaffection from students but from the structure of post-14 education and its link to performance tables. To read the report, go to: www.cilt.org.uk/research_and_statistics.aspx.

See news coverage at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8470066.stm>;

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/jan/20/languages-become-twilight-subjects>;

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/jan/20/languages-modernlanguages>;

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6996459.ece;

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/schools-abandon-foreign-language-targets-1873847.html>;

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/comment-languages-need-to-be-a-priority-for-the-pupils-and-the-nations-sake-1873850.html>.

Foreign languages becoming 'privilege of elite'

Foreign language lessons are becoming the privilege of elite and wealthy children, a Government adviser warns today as figures showed another drop in teenagers studying the subject: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6996459.ece.

Changes to the child visitor rules

The UK Border Agency has announced details of changes to the rules on foreign students under the age of 18 who come to the UK on exchanges and educational visits:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/december/44-changes-child-visitor-rules>.

Bonjour, enfants: the English school that's serious about French

They are not in uniform, they do not sit in circles and they are not speaking English. So what exactly is going on at Wix Primary School in Clapham?:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/bonjour-enfants-the-english-school-thats-serious-about-french-1859074.html>.

Travel traumas: what we take for granted as a nation who speak English

The Independent asks us to spare a thought for those caught up in the recent weather-induced travel chaos without the luxury of announcements being made in their native tongue:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/travel-traumas-what-we-take-for-granted-as-a-nation-who-speak-english-1859592.html>.

Hope springs eternal

A language enthusiast from Llandudno is keen to set up a local Esperanto language group, and has high hopes for the language's future:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north_west/8376794.stm.

Bengali 'should be a UN language'

The assembly in the Indian state of West Bengal has passed a resolution backing Bangladesh's call for Bengali to be made an official UN language:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/8425744.stm.

You don't have to speak the lingo to get the gist

Sathnam Sanghera claims that we understand more languages than we realise:

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/sathnam_sanghera/article6964101.ece.

Syria's last speakers of Jesus's mother tongue

A Guardian travel feature that includes a search for the last speakers of Aramaic:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/audioslideshow/2010/jan/08/middleeast-syria-aleppo-souks-aramaic>.

Should Scots lingo be taught in schools?

A leading researcher has called for the Scots language to be taught in schools to keep it alive:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8461063.stm>.

Puzzle of division between the Scottish and English language

It is a debate that has divided scholars since ... well, possibly the 7th century, when two languages with a common Germanic root - Old English - took their separate courses:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6988652.ece>.

Have a good dy: Cornish language is taught in nursery

Most nurseries teach children to share toys and play nicely in the sandpit. At the first Cornish language crèche, opening tomorrow, toddlers will learn to share their tegennow and play nicely in the polltewas:

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6988752.ece.

Laura Robson reveals the benefits of talking in tongues on tour

Britain's female tennis stars are looking to get one over on their English-speaking international rivals with 'backslang':

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/2010/jan/24/laura-robson-heather-watson-australian-open>.

EVENTS

AULC 2010

I was due to have a stand at the AULC AGM at the beginning of January, but was sadly prevented from attending by the seriously inclement weather. Sincere apologies to all those who managed to make it! If you are interested in any of the courses or resources that BBC Active produces, don't forget that you can look at our website: www.bbcactivelanguages.com, or get in touch with me: susanna.shapland@pearson.com. I was particularly keen to show people our networkable, interactive resources [French and Spanish At Your Fingertips](#). If you want to find out more or trial any of the programs, go to: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/OurProducts/AtYourFingertips.aspx> or send me an email.

To find out more about AULC, go to: <http://www.aulc.org/>.

ISMLA 2010

I hope to see many of you this Saturday at the ISMLA conference. For details and directions to the North London Collegiate College, see: <http://www.ismla.co.uk/>.

Arabic films for school students

Cornerhouse (Manchester's international centre for contemporary visual arts and film) is providing students (14-19 years) and teachers of Arabic the opportunity to develop language skills through a host of exciting cinema-based study sessions and creative workshops, all of which are FREE to attend. Not only will your students get the opportunity to enhance their language skills and cultural awareness, but they will also develop their visual and digital technology literacy skills through contemporary film. For more information, see: <http://www.cornerhouse.org/education/projector/mfl.aspx>.

Language World 2010

26th-27th Mar 2010, University of York hosts Language World 2010: Building on firm foundations – steps to success. Come and celebrate the 20th anniversary of ALL! Brilliant speakers and sessions, big free publishers' exhibition, a dinner on Friday night, lots of networking and much more!

Conference rates will be:

ALL individual members: one day £100, two days £200;

ALL group members: one day £125, two days £250;

Non-members: one day, £200, two days £400.

For more information, contact IngridN@ALL-languages.org.uk or call 0116 229 7454.

For a programme and booking form, email info@ALL-languages.org.uk or call 0116 229 7453

or download a copy of the full programme at: http://www.all-languages.org.uk/pdfuploads/all_lw.pdf.

ALL are very pleased to announce that DCSF will generously sponsor 100 free one-day delegate places at the conference for PGCE students, student teachers training on other routes and languages NQTs.

To book a DCSF-funded place you will need to contact Ingrid Nyaundi by email: ingridn@all-languages.org.uk or by telephone: 0116 229 7454.

CILT Primary Languages Show

12-13 Mar 2010, Arena and Convention Centre (ACC), Liverpool: 14th annual CILT Primary Languages Show. Share and explore innovative work for developing language learning. Workshops to help inspire teaching and learning of languages in primary schools. For further information, please go to: www.cilt.org.uk/events/primary_languages_show_2010.aspx. Come and see the latest dual-language DVDs from BBC Active!

Teaching Languages in a Virtual World

A TESOL Electronic Village Online course: Ref. TlinVW10, 11 January to 21 February 2010. Graham Davies has drawn attention to this, a hands-on collaborative teacher CPD workshop to explore the relationship between virtual worlds and language learning. The course targets mainly ESOL teachers, but a good deal of the workshop will also be relevant to MFL: http://evosessions.pbworks.com/Teaching_Languages_in_a_Virtual_World.

Registration is open now. See: <http://tlinvw.ning.com>. For further information about the TESOL Electronic Village Online (EVO) see: <http://evosessions.pbworks.com>. And a reminder that you can join the CALICO/EUROCALL Virtual Worlds Ning here:

<http://virtualworldssig.ning.com>.

CHIKARA Workshop for GCSE Japanese

This event is aimed at teachers of GCSE Japanese and the workshop will focus on the CHIKARA resources for GCSE Japanese. The aims of the workshop are to help you improve your skills in making new resources and to give you an insight into how the GCSE in Japanese is changing.

One workshop will be held in Japanese on 18th February and another will be held in English on 19th February. The content will be almost the same on each day, so there is no need to attend both.

Date: 18th February 2010 to 19th February 2010 from 10.00am

Venue: Japan Foundation London Language Centre

For more information go to: <http://www.jpf.org.uk/whatson.php?department=language#213>.

Vida Latina Day 2010

On 6th Mar 2010, 9.30-16.00, Vida Latina Day will be held at Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham, B4 7ET. Come and experience Latin culture, with workshops on the art, music and culture of South America. Further information will be available from the ALL website in due course: http://www.all-languages.org.uk/committee_spanish.asp.

Languages in the Additional Specialist Learning of the Diplomas and Developments with the Diploma in Languages and International Communication

Free one day courses are currently available as part of a series of regional events aimed at heads of languages, languages teachers, languages advisers and LA 14-19 advisers. They aim to give an update on the current situation nationally on languages being taught in the Additional Specialist Learning and also to provide information on the latest developments in the new Diploma in Languages and International Communication.

The course focuses on:

Giving an overview of diplomas and how languages can fit into the ASL.

Advice from awarding bodies on the use of a range of qualifications to accredit the language in the ASL.

Showcasing schools who have already implemented languages as part of a specialist Diploma.

Informing on the latest developments in the new Diploma in Languages and International Communication.

For more information about venues and dates, and to book a place, visit:

http://www.cilt.org.uk/secondary/14-19/diplomas_and_work-related/diploma_seminars.aspx.

Petition on Number 10 website

Andrew Coombe has created a petition on the No 10 website to 'petition the Prime Minister to reinstate the compulsory teaching of modern foreign languages up to the age of 16'. You can read more at: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/TeachLanguages>.

The ISMLA German Day

This will take place on Saturday 20 March 2010 at the Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, London SW7. The conference will cover: new things to do in the secondary school German classroom; how to get your students to German-speaking countries; what's happening in universities; news from the Goethe-Institut. Details will be mailed to ISMLA members. If you're interested and aren't a member of ISMLA, contact Dr Geoffrey Plow at University College School, Frognal, London NW3 6XH, or at: gplow@ucs.org.uk for details.

RESOURCES

New Languages Work website

CILT are pleased to announce that the new Languages Work website is now live:

www.languageswork.org.uk. It has a dedicated area for resources and classroom activities about careers and languages, available to order or download for free. You can choose from a variety of colourful posters and postcards to decorate your classroom walls or select from our range of informative careers factsheets to hand out to your students. The new website also

has a Learner Zone, where students can find lots of advice on how to plan their career, and the study options available to them. And there's lots of information about different employment sectors, case studies of people using their languages in their jobs, profiles of a range of languages on offer and hints and tips about applying for jobs, taking a gap year, and studying and working abroad.

CILT hope that you will find the new and improved site useful and easy to navigate. As always, they welcome your comments and feedback – contact them at:

info@languageswork.org.uk.

You might also want to sign up to their careers e-newsletter, which will keep you up-to-date with any Languages Work developments. You can do this online.

Japan Foundation: world heritage photo panels

The Japan Foundation has teamed up with renowned photographer, Kazuyoshi Miyoshi, to produce a stunning series of photographs showing the diversity and beauty of Japan's World Heritage sites. Japan's World Heritage sites include both cultural heritage properties, for example, the historic temples of Kyoto and Himeji-jo Castle, and natural heritage sites like Shiretoko Peninsula and Yakushima Island.

Totalling 64 pictures in all, these photo panels are available to hire free of charge. As either a stand-alone exhibition or complementing a Japan-related event, the panels have been a great success around the country, at schools, universities, galleries and town halls.

Please contact Neil Cantwell at the Japan Foundation London office for further information about borrowing the panels. Tel: 020 7436 6695; E-mail: neil.cantwell@jpf.org.uk.

Making the case and selling languages

Rachel Hawkes has posted a set of slides on her blog on why Britain needs languages. It includes quotes from the recent House of Lords debate:

<http://rachelhawkes.typepad.com/linguacom/>.

Reflexive verbs in Spanish

This brilliant video has been recommended on the MFLR Forum:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KATBgZ5oylg>.

Useful Dutch Information Websites

The Dutch Language School has come across the following websites that they believe might be useful for learners and those interested in Dutch culture:

1. POSTBUS 51: <http://www.postbus51.nl>.

Postbus 51 is a Dutch government information service that provides a central access point for Dutch citizens wanting further information about specific government departments and their procedures. It is similar to the DirectGov website in the UK.

The website provides a wide range of information about all Dutch government departments. Postbus 51 is also responsible for public education campaigns in the Netherlands. The website is in Dutch.

2. CENTRAAL BUREAU VOOR DE STATISTIEK: <http://www.cbs.nl>.

The Centraal Bureau Voor De Statistiek (CBS) is the Dutch equivalent to the Office for National Statistics in the UK. This website provides reports and statistical data on a range of areas of national interest, from population and economic growth to education and the environment. The website is in Dutch.

3. MINISTERIE VAN ONDERWIJS, CULTUUR EN WETENSCHAP: <http://www.minocw.nl>.

This is the website for the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science. The website provides a wide range of useful and relevant information. The website is in Dutch and English.

4. EURYDICE: <http://www.eurydice.org>.

Eurydice is a network established by the European Commission that supports and facilitates European cooperation in the field of lifelong learning. The website provides comparable information on education systems and policies in the 31 EU countries and studies on issues common to European education systems. The website is in 23 European languages.

Arsenal Double Club: German

Following a lively exchange on Linguanet, the Arsenal Double Club's resources have been recommended for all those with language students who like football! Have a look at their German resources at: http://www.ukgermanconnection.org/cms/?location_id=751. The home

page of the Double Club is at: <http://www.arsenal.com/doubleclub>.

French publicity

The following website has been recommended as useful for teaching the advertising theme, and could also be useful for vocational courses involving language elements:

<http://blogopub.tv/>.

Tool for Online and Offline Language Learning (TOOL)

Recently the TOOL project <http://www.toolproject.eu> completed building its blended learning language courses in Dutch, Estonian, Hungarian, Maltese and Slovene (A2 of the Common European Framework). We would be very grateful if you could help the project by reviewing the courses (there are instructions in English as well).

They are not looking necessarily for deep reviews but an overview.

If you would like to help then please write to info@kindersite.org with the subject line: TOOL.

They will then send you passwords to enter the courses.

Des jeux pour comprendre le monde

Marie-France Perkins has recommended the following site as being full of great French games, including some on geography:

<http://mondomix.com/blogs/samarra.php/2009/12/14/jeux>.

Dutch

The following website has been flagged on the MFL Resources Forum. Apparently it is a joint venture between the University of Sheffield, University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham and UCL: <http://www.dutch.ac.uk/>.

Guernica

These websites from French teachers focussing on Guernica have also been recommended on the MFLR Forum:

http://pedagogie.ac-toulouse.fr/espagnol/htm/historia/espana/guer_civ/guernica.htm

<http://www2.ac-lyon.fr/enseigne/espagnol/pdf/guernica.pdf>

<http://www.guerracivil1936.galeon.com/>.

There is also this: <http://www.all-nsc.org.uk/nsc/?q=node/37>.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

National Curriculum subject level descriptors - consultation

The DCSF launched a consultation on these at the beginning of January. The closing date is 5th February, so be quick!:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1680&external=no&menu=1>.

Survey on MFL in UK primary schools

The following message comes from Jo Rhys Jones:

Last week I attended a number of meetings organised by Links into Languages, with teachers and trainers who were talking about what inset/training to provide next (before the money runs out!) to get everyone up and running for the KS2 entitlement for languages. However it seems the people missing from these meetings are those whose opinions we need most - classteachers. So I have had a go at creating a simple, free 'Survey Monkey' online questionnaire. Partly to see how easy it is (very) and mostly because I would really really appreciate your opinions as otherwise I have only my own! If you can spare a few minutes to complete 10 short, multiple-choice questions online, in complete anonymity, about teaching languages in UK primary schools - I would really appreciate it!

The link is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XNYBTMD>. I will share the results with everyone on the Talkabout Primary Languages ning: <http://primarymfl.ning.com> but will also post the results here if members are interested. Thank you all in advance!

World languages survey

The TDA is developing a world-languages strategy to help improve the teaching of languages

other than English. As part this, the TDA is conducting a world-languages survey. This will give teachers and heads an opportunity to share their experiences of language learning in their area. The feedback given will help shape future research. To fill out the survey, go to: <http://www.tda.gov.uk/teachers/worldlanguagesurvey.aspx>.

Fourth Russian essay competition in the UK КОНКУРС СОЧИНЕНИЙ НА РУССКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

A message from Andrew Jameson on the ALL Russian Essay Competition:

Following very positive feedback from all educational sectors across the UK we are happy to announce the Russian Essay Competition 2010.

Students learning Russian at Schools, Colleges and Universities in the UK, including heritage learners and adult learners, are invited to participate in the 4th National Russian Essay Competition 2010. The competition has been organised by the Russian Committee of the Association for Language Learning (ALL), www.all-languages.org.uk, and Russian Teachers' Group UK (RTG), www.russianteachersgroupuk.org. Please visit the official RUSSIAN ESSAY COMPETITION website: www.resources4russian.co.uk/essay. It is a great opportunity for your students to be creative with the language, compete nationwide with their peers in a field-wide event and raise the profile of Russian at your institution.

This year there will be 3 people who will be directly involved in organising the competition:

Katya Solovyova (The Latymer School) info@russianessaycompetition.co.uk

Nadia Griffin (Cator Park School) entry@russianessaycompetition.co.uk

Natalia Tronenko (Russian Committee, ALL) coordinator@russianessaycompetition.co.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any queries.

We would be very grateful if you could send your entries in by 8th March 2010 to Katya Solovyova at info@russianessaycompetition.co.uk.

The Japan-EU Mutual Understanding Scholarship Programme 2010

This programme is sponsored by the Japanese government to encourage young people from Europe (aged 15-18) to experience life and school life in Japan to have a good understanding of Japan and its culture: <http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/en/study/Japan-EUmusp.html>.

Fifth Japanese Speech Contest for University Students

This event, co-organised by the Japan Foundation and BATJ, provides an opportunity for students of Japanese to demonstrate their high level of spoken Japanese acquired in Japanese courses at higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland.

The contest will be held at SOAS on 27th February 2010. The application deadline has now passed but the event is open to the public so you can go along to watch. Find out more at: <http://www.jpof.org.uk/whatson.php?department=language#213>.

National Arabic Declamation Contest 2010

Recite a poem or tell a story - open to learners of all standards.

~ An excellent way for students to build confidence and learn about Arab culture

~ An opportunity to meet fellow students and teachers from other places

Sunday 7 March, 2.30-5.30 pm at Eton College (Upper School building), Berkshire SL4 6DW.

How to take part:

1. Pick any short Arabic text that you would like to recite. (Maximum length: two minutes.)
2. You can recite either as an individual or in a group. (There is no limit to the number of members in a group entry.)
3. Memorise the text and recite it to your teacher.
4. Your teacher can submit up to three entries (either individuals or groups) to represent your school/college/university at the contest. That is three entries overall, regardless of category.
5. There will be two categories: Beginners and Open. See below for definitions.
6. Entry is through the school/college/university only. Individual entries will not be accepted.
7. It would be a good idea to organise an internal contest within your school/college/university to decide who will represent it at the national contest.
8. Entries can be made via e-mail to arabic@etoncollege.org.uk. The following information is needed: (a) name of institution; (b) details of participants (names, ages, categories and whether they will be taking part as individuals or groups); (c) copies of texts that they will recite; and (d) the number of non-participants (teachers, friends, relatives etc) that will be attending.

9. The deadline for entries is 15th February 2010.

10. If you would like to receive a pack of suggested texts, please e-mail your request to arabic@etoncollege.org.uk.

CATEGORIES

Beginners:

- Students not from an Arabic-speaking background who are at school/college and below GCSE standard.

- Students not from an Arabic-speaking background who are at university and in their first year.

Open:

- Students at school/college or university from an Arabic-speaking background.

- Students not from an Arabic-speaking background who are at school/college and of GCSE standard or above.

- Students not from an Arabic-speaking background who are at university and in their second, third or fourth year.

All entries and enquiries to arabic@etoncollege.org.uk by 15 February 2010.

Competición de debate en Español - King Alfred School

El departamento de español de King Alfred School, invita a todos los colegios con Sixth Form a participar en una competición de debate en español. Siguiendo el modelo de la competición en francés organizada por Highgate School, el año pasado organizamos la primera competición de debate en español. Los comentarios de todos los participantes fueron muy positivos. Este año volvemos a organizarla y esperamos que incluso más colegios participen. La competición tendrá lugar el miércoles, diez de marzo de 2010.

El premio para la pareja ganadora es un curso de una semana en la escuela de español Mester en Salamanca. Para más detalles manda un email a Eva Sánchez a:

evas@kingalfred.org.uk.

Celebrate the French language with British Council schools competition

The British Council and the French Embassy in the UK are delighted to invite you to participate in the third French Language Week Competition, designed to celebrate the French language in the context of la Semaine de Langue Française. It is open to all schools and colleges in England teaching French to pupils aged 7-18.

French Language Week takes place every year in March, celebrating French language and French-speaking cultures. For this special occasion ten words are chosen as an emblem of the richness of the French language, inviting us to give way to our imagination and creativity. Words for 2010: «Dis-moi dix mots dans tous les sens»: baladeur, cheval de Troie, crescendo, escagasser, galère, mobile, remue-méninges, mentor, variante, zipper.

For more information and an entry form, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-french-language-week.htm. The closing date for entries to the French Embassy is Monday 15 February 2010.

Calling all Olympic athletes!

For the next edition of Languages Today, ALL would like to hear from you about any work you are doing in your schools in conjunction with the 2012 Olympics, the 2010 World Cup, or sport in general. In particular, they are looking for linguists or language teachers who are, or have been, Olympic athletes...! If you fit this description, or if you know someone who does, please contact them on: languagestoday@all-languages.org.uk, or see their contact details in the magazine.

Photographs needed

To help ALL raise the profile of language teachers and students learning languages, the editorial team at Languages Today also welcomes the opportunity to use up-to-date photographs of teachers working with their students, from schools, colleges, higher and adult education. If you have suitable photographs that they could use to show languages teaching and learning, please send them to: languagestoday@all-languages.org.uk with a brief description and the name of your institution.

Requirements:

1. Full permission of all subjects must be obtained, in particular parents' permission to use images of pupils;

2. High resolution (minimum 300 dpi or 2,480 pixels wide), jpegs if possible;
3. Full colour preferred.

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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