

## **BBC Active Languages Teachers' Email 109**

Welcome to the 109th BBC Active newsletter

A warm welcome to all our subscribers, regular and newly joined. We want to make sure that we are including information and resources that you find useful, so would really like to hear your comments or feedback on the newsletter. Please email us at [bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com](mailto:bbcactive.languages.admin@pearson.com).

The next newsletter will be sent out in May 2013.  
In the meantime, please enjoy this one!  
Jo

### **Contents**

#### **News from BBC Active**

Support for tutors on our website, new German resources, apps and great-value language packs.

#### **National News**

Read about the report into the Demand and Supply of Languages Skills in the UK, the government's plans for a new slimmed-down curriculum and how this affects MFL, and lots more...

#### **Events**

There's a quick reminder for Language World 2013, plus a range of short courses coming up over the next few months.

#### **Resources**

Lots of free resources to peruse, including a variety of ICT resources to support primary Modern Languages teaching and a daily e-magazine full of interesting articles, videos and photos about languages from around the world!

#### **Surveys and Competitions**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual German Teacher award is coming up. Do you know a truly outstanding teacher to nominate? Also find out more about an award for innovative language-learning projects.

## **News from BBC Active**

### **Try our courses for free!**

Did you know that you can order FREE copies of our language courses? If you are a language teacher and are considering using one of our courses with your students, you can request a copy to evaluate. And don't forget that many of our courses are supported by free tutors' notes and photocopiable worksheets for you to use in the classroom. All this and more can be found on the dedicated tutors' pages of our website:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/tabid/60/Default.aspx>

### **Amazing-value Complete Talk**

Our bestselling Talk courses are now even better value. You can make a considerable saving by buying Talk, Talk 2 and Talk Grammar together in our Complete Talk pack. Available in French, Spanish, Italian and German. Keep an eye out for regular offers on <http://www.amazon.co.uk>

### **Talk German 2 and Talk German Grammar**

Many of you have been requesting that we extend our Talk German range. We listened and Talk German 2 and Talk German Grammar are now available. Talk German 2 is an intermediate course that builds on the solid foundations of Talk German. Talk German Grammar is an accessible, comprehensive guide to German grammar, complete with practice activities to reinforce learning. Both are available from all good book retailers.

\*Coming soon: Talk German 2 tutors' notes\*

### **Quickstart apps**

Do you have trouble motivating your students to practise their language skills outside the classroom? Our Quickstart apps are fun and interactive, perfect for supplementing classroom studies at home or on the move. See <http://www.bbcactivequickstart.co.uk> for further information. Available in French, Spanish, Italian and German on the iTunes App Store.

### **Special offers coming soon!**

Look out for special offers in coming issues of the newsletter, available exclusively to members of the BBC Active Language Tutors' Club.

## **National News**

Could the language we speak skew our financial decision-making, and does the fact that you're reading this in English make you less likely than a Mandarin speaker to save for your old age?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-21518574>

Demand and Supply of Language Skills in the UK. The British Academy has launched the Languages: The State of the Nation report.

[http://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/State\\_of\\_the\\_Nation\\_2013.cfm](http://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/State_of_the_Nation_2013.cfm)

Research says dire foreign language skills are contributing to UK market failure.

<http://www.britac.ac.uk/news/news.cfm/newsid/876>

Wales will set its own grading system for English language GCSEs to avoid a repeat of last summer's re-grading row, Education Minister Leighton Andrews has announced.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-21537302>

How can schools nationwide mimic London's improvement?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21535443>

Backers of a universal alphabet say it will make pronunciation easy and foster international understanding. But can phonetic spelling systems really smooth the path to world peace?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21505114>

An exams body has raised concerns that the situation which led to the re-grading of more than 2,000 English language GCSE papers in Wales last year could arise again.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-21449913>

How useful is it to speak Latin these days?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21440175>

A new tool has been developed that can reconstruct long-dead languages.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21427896>

The government has published its plans to slim down the national curriculum followed by primary and secondary schools in England. Foreign languages will be compulsory for older primary school children.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21370362>

Children with speech impairments are to benefit from technology developed at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-21328998>

This table lists the 227 schools in England where 25% or more of pupils doing A-levels got at least grades AAB in subjects leading universities say they want.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21171287>

Recent announcements on the draft National Curriculum for England, Michael Gove's U-turn on the EBacc Certificates and the news of further consultation on performance measures at Key Stage 4 (the EBacc) have been received by officers and members of ALL with mixed feelings.

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/draft\\_national\\_curriculum\\_for\\_england](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/draft_national_curriculum_for_england)

FLAME (Future for Languages as a Medium of Education) is a new initiative led by the Association for Language Learning to support the integration of language learning with other curriculum subjects.

<http://www.all-languages.org.uk/community/flame>

The Home Language Accreditation Project (HoLA) aims to assist bilingual children gain qualifications in their home language.

[http://www.all-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/home_language_accreditation_project_hola)

[languages.org.uk/news/news\\_list/home\\_language\\_accreditation\\_project\\_hola](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/home_language_accreditation_project_hola)

With languages no longer compulsory at Key Stage 4, showing students the relevance of languages and inspiring them to want to take their learning further is key.

<http://www.sec-ed.co.uk/best-practice/motivating-students-to-engage-with-language-learning/>

The school where they speak 20 languages: a day at Gladstone Primary

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2013/feb/28/school-20-languages-gladstone-primary>

English teenagers are the worst in Europe at learning a second language. But is that any surprise, given how widely spoken English is? Anne Merritt looks at what motivates us to learn foreign languages.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/9900074/What-motivates-us-to-learn-foreign-languages.html>

Comparison of modern languages and linguistics postgraduate and master's courses in 2013

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/table/2013/feb/26/modern-languages-linguistics-postgraduate-masters-courses>

Hundreds more primary schools in England could be labelled as underperforming as the government raises its test result targets.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-21658412>

Playing video games may help children with dyslexia improve their reading skills, research suggests.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21619592>

## Events

Language World 2013

22 March – 23 March 2013

Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language\\_world/language\\_world\\_2013](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language_world/language_world_2013)

Residence Abroad, Social Networks and Second Language Learning

10 April – 12 April 2013

Avenue Campus, University of Southampton

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/6649>

Reading is the Most Important Skill! Improving Pupils' MFL Reading Strategies

18 May 2013

Withington Girls' School

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/geoff_brammall_reading_is_the_most_important_skill_improving_pupils_mfl_reading_strategies)

[list/details/read/geoff\\_brammall\\_reading\\_is\\_the\\_most\\_important\\_skill\\_improving\\_pupils\\_mfl\\_reading\\_strategies](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/geoff_brammall_reading_is_the_most_important_skill_improving_pupils_mfl_reading_strategies)

Goethe Institut German Day

22 June 2013

Manchester High School for Girls

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/goethe\\_institut\\_german\\_day](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/goethe_institut_german_day)

Developing Classroom Talk 2

25 June 2013

Comberton Village College

[http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/developing\\_classroom\\_talk\\_2](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events-list/details/read/developing_classroom_talk_2)

Language Partnerships across Sectors: Seminar and Discussion Workshop

1 May 2013

University of Strathclyde

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/6724>

Innovative Language Teaching and Learning at University: Enhancing the Learning Experience through Student Engagement

28 June 2013

Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, The University of Manchester

<http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/ourresearch/events/conferences/>

WorldCALL aims to enhance computer-assisted language teaching and learning in the global community by bringing educators from around the world together.

SECC, Glasgow

10 July - 13 July 2013

<http://www.worldcall2013.org/index.asp>

## Resources

Thanks to forum users for some of the resources listed below.

A variety of ICT resources to support teaching Modern Languages in the primary school taken from a presentation by Malcolm Wilson, ICT Curriculum Development Officer in the Curriculum Support Team of Falkirk Council Education Services.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/CurriculumSupport/2013/02/27/ict-to-support-modern-languages-in-the-primary-school/>

A link on l'Internaute to a survey relating to the topic of holidays. Although aimed at adults, it could still be a useful classroom resource.

[http://www.linternaute.com/questionnaire/fiche/11945/d/f/1/?utm\\_source=benchmail&utm\\_medium=mail&utm\\_campaign=ML8\\_E10241318&f\\_u=3290866](http://www.linternaute.com/questionnaire/fiche/11945/d/f/1/?utm_source=benchmail&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=ML8_E10241318&f_u=3290866)

The environment in French:

1jouractu has a whole section on la planète with lots of issues covered. You can pick some of them out, devise your own exercises and your pupils will have loads of material to get them thinking. <http://1jour1actu.com/rubrique/planete/>

This brochure in French for Hogwarts School has been very popular with KS3:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Hogwarts-brochure-in-French-6092326/event/22/>

Scores of 'Hot Potato' quizzes and gap-fill activities contextualised across GCSE topics:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/GCSE-Revision-Lots-of-HOT-POTATO-activities-6317266/>

This resource looks at ways to encourage learners to interact more in Spanish, developing the skills of both planned and unplanned (or spontaneous) talk.

<http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Talk-for-a-minute-various-topics-6046670/event/22/>

Scheme of Work for development of spontaneous talk in Spanish at KS3:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Learner-Talk-Scheme-Spanish-6051244/event/22/>

Make flashcards, interactive games, etc. with some simple vocab input:

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

A selection of free websites for young children learning languages. These include English language sites, designed to support children learning a new language, and websites for young native speakers of other languages:

[http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/resources/online\\_resources/more\\_languages\\_multilanguage.aspx](http://www.primarylanguages.org.uk/resources/online_resources/more_languages_multilanguage.aspx)

The language of Twitter: the rise of MFL teachers online.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2013/feb/07/twitter-language-mfl-teachers?INTCMP=SRCH>

A free daily e-magazine created from the links in the tweets of those who follow the Twitter account @MFLTimes It's full of interesting articles, videos and photos about languages from around the world!

<http://paper.li/MFLTimes>

## Surveys and Competitions

Pop Video Competition

Closing date: 19 April 2013:

<https://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/2764>

Language Perfect World Championships 2013

20 May – 30 May 2013:

[www.languageperfect.com/worldchamps](http://www.languageperfect.com/worldchamps)

The Times Stephen Spender Prize 2013 for poetry in translation

Translate a poem from any language, classical or modern, into English

Closing date: 24 May 2013:

[http://www.stephen-spender.org/spender\\_prize\\_2013.html](http://www.stephen-spender.org/spender_prize_2013.html)

European Language Label 2013

The European Language Label is an award for innovative language-learning projects. It rewards creative ways to improve the quality of language teaching, motivate learners and make the best of available resources.

The application deadline for 2013 is 21 April 2013:

[http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/valuing\\_languages/european\\_language\\_label1.aspx](http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/valuing_languages/european_language_label1.aspx)

10<sup>th</sup> Annual German Teacher Award

If you know a truly outstanding German teacher at your school, make sure that their dedication and excellence get the recognition they deserve!

Deadline for applications: 25 April 2013

<http://www.london.diplo.de/contentblob/3817954/Daten/3040330/GTAFlyer.pdf>