

Welcome to the 90th BBC Active newsletter!

I hope that you aren't too busy with the joys of the festive season and taking some long-awaited leave to read December's newsletter. The newsletter is going out a little earlier than usual so I can disappear into the joys of Christmas with my new in-laws (wish me luck!), and so you can have a chance to look at it before you are fully immersed in your own celebrations.

It is still a lengthy newsletter, announcing the winner of our Christmas hamper competition and bringing you some great news and resources - the animated German penguins are my personal favourite!

Have a lovely break, and see you in 2010.

Susie

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NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

25% off this Christmas with BBC Active

Don't forget that you still have a few days to claim your 25% off all orders through the BBC Active languages website. Postage is free on all standard orders anywhere in Europe, so why not treat your friends, family and students to some lovely language resources? Just add items to your basket to see their discounted price:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/Christmas2009.aspx>. The offer expires on 24th December 2009.



GCSE Bitesize Complete Revision and Practice - new for 2010

The popular Bitesize revision guides are being updated and re-released in the New Year to be in line with the new GCSE specification. The books for the current specification are still available to buy through our website (www.bbcactivelanguages.com), but from January 2010 the books for the new specification will be available to buy from the Pearson Schools website. You can either buy the books and CD-ROMs on their own, or in a class pack that contains 20 copies of the French or Spanish GCSE Bitesize 2010 Complete Revision and Practice, plus the Network Licence (worth £99.99) FREE.

Using the GCSE Bitesize Spanish 2010 Complete Revision and Practice with a whole class can help to motivate students to approach their revision in a clear, organised way. Increase their confidence from beginning to end of the revision process with tools designed to plan, organise and build their knowledge.

You can read more or pre-order now from the Pearson Schools website from the following links:

French book and CD-ROM: <http://tiny.cc/VJrPK>.

French class pack: <http://tiny.cc/f0ykq>.

Spanish book and CD-ROM: <http://tiny.cc/bm7rQ>.

Spanish class pack: <http://tiny.cc/bal4B>.

Christmas hamper competition

Thank you to all of you who overwhelmed us with entries for the Christmas hamper competition. There was a wide range of suggestions, from the hilarious to the traditional to the incredibly inventive. We had a really very difficult time in choosing, but finally settled on this entry from Heather Ashdown of Norfolk Spanish, because it was original, sounded fun and we also thought that it would be easy to adapt for all ages and levels. We also liked the fact that it got the whole class listening and involved. Her tip to make language learning fun is as follows:

'My students at Norfolk Spanish play lots of games, even though we are all adults; it helps us break the ice, speak Spanish and have a sociable time!

'One of our favourite games is played in two teams and we call it: 'Un, Dos Tres, Repite Después'. I have a list of say 10 or even 20 categories which can be adapted for different levels - say, nationalities, countries, colours, clothes, things in a town, food, verbs of motion etc. - and each team choose a number blind and then have one minute (timed) to say all the things under the category in Spanish that they know. I give points even for incorrect answers as it is up to the opposing team to shout 'Párate' if they hear an error or a repetition; if they do, we stop the clock and award a point to the opposing team, whose turn it is to choose a category. You can have a prize for the winning team and a commiseration for the losing team and teams can choose their own Spanish names. Categories can be adapted to suit higher levels eg. Verbs taking the preposition 'de', present and preterite pairs, adjectives describing personality etc. I have used this game to teach both Spanish and EFL.'

I hope that you will consider using a variation of the game Heather describes in your classes. Over the next few months I will be building a page on our website featuring a variety of the tips entered, so please do contact me if you would not like your tip to be used. Watch this space!

NEWS FROM THE BBC

¡Estoy reventado/reventada! - I'm partied out!

Subscribe to the feed at www.bbc.co.uk/languages and pick up a new phrase in French, Spanish, German or Italian every day.

Happy New Year's resolution!

Kick off the New Year by taking your first steps in French, Spanish, German or Italian with interactive, online courses for beginners. Sign up for free email tips and make learning a new language your New Year's Resolution. Complete the course to get the BBC certificate:

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

Already know some French? Try Ma France:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/tips/>.

***New look* The French Experience**

J'ai mal à la gorge ... Qu'est-ce que vous me conseillez? It's that time of year and we've improved the videos in this ever-popular course to give it a whole new look! Now with full screen option.

The French Experience: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/experience/>.

Forme et santé - health section: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/experience/health/>.

Mi Vida Loca tips

Starting from scratch or already know a little Spanish? Immerse yourself in this Bafta-winning mystery drama, picking up essential Spanish along the way. Get extra encouragement with the email tips for this thrilling video course:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/>.

Sign up for the tips: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/steps/mividaloca/>.

Share your tips on using the course: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/mi_vida_loca/.

Don't try this abroad - your experiences

Flustered in France? Shown up in Spain? Or maybe you made a slip-up on the slopes. Share your language-related mishaps and embarrassing moments over the Christmas holidays with us!

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/yoursay/dont_try/a_selection_of_languagerelated_mishaps.shtml.

Adult Learners' Week award

Celebrate digital participation with the BBC and Adult Learners' Week with a new award acknowledging outstanding adults who have transformed their lives through learning. If you know an adult learner who has achieved something extraordinary and you want to give them the recognition they deserve for their incredible learning journey, nominate them for an award! Closing date for entries is 29th January:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/alw/2010/>.

The LAFTAs

Entries are now open for this year's Languages and Film Talent Awards (LAFTAs). If you or your students are aged between 13-21, make a two-minute film about the importance of languages or languages and the Olympics before February for a chance to win great prizes!:

<http://www.languageswork.org.uk/laftas/>.

Languages on TV

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

Bonne Année ! ; ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! ; Frohes Neues Jahr! ; Felice Anno Nuovo!

NATIONAL NEWS

Teach English History in French

Pupils should learn subjects like history and geography in French to stem the decline of modern foreign languages, school leaders have said:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8380514.stm>.

House of Lords debate on MFL

Graham Davies flagged the above debate that took place on 3 December 2009 and can be found in Hansard at: <http://tinyurl.com/y8vac7t>.

SSAT's five ways for schools to get young people learning a language

With many students turning their backs on foreign languages, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) has issued five top tips that will encourage more young people to converse in Mandarin and write good Spanish. The tips include broadening in a school's MFL offering to include languages such as Arabic, Mandarin Chinese or Japanese:

<https://www.ssatrust.org.uk/media/Pages/getyoungpeoplelearninglanguage.aspx>.

Hairspray goes global

A pioneering system has been introduced at a London theatre to translate the musical Hairspray into eight languages: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8379825.stm>.

Modern languages in decline

The UK is in danger of becoming one of the most monolingual countries in the world, which could harm its performance in the global economy and its "intercultural competence" and make it less attractive as a research hub:

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6027067>.

What next for English?

Many words which have crept into common parlance deserve to be banned, writes Anna Bawden in the Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2009/nov/30/english-language-misuse>.

New grammar book seeks to 'unify' Spanish language

A new grammar book has been launched in Spain that aims to draw up universal rules for a language spoken by some 500 million people in more than 20 nations:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8407231.stm>.

Monkey calls give clues to language origins

Two studies suggest that the ability to combine sounds and words to alter meaning may be rooted in a species of monkey: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8405806.stm>.

Exchanges under threat

Concern mounts as state and private schools form an alliance to speak out against a perceived threat to exchange programmes:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/dec/11/heads-attack-child-protection-rules> and http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/school_league_tables/article6952189.ece.

Although please also see the Government's recently published 'Vetting and Barring Review' for an update on the situation:

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01122-2009.pdf>.

Mark Lowe is right: the Romans said it better

A Telegraph article extolling the eloquence of Latin, with some useful examples of celebrity endorsement (although be advised that this article does make reference to a possibly offensive extract from Catullus - not for those of a sensitive disposition):

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/6649756/Mark-Lowe-is-right-The-Romans-said-it-better.html>.

Nepalese firefighter called on in crisis

A firefighter was called on for his language skills over his firefighting abilities when a group of Nepalese residents were evacuated from a flat in Hampshire:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8413202.stm>.

The language of Avatar revealed

Professor Paul Frommer is a linguistics expert from the University of Southern California and the brains behind the language used by James Cameron's 10-foot-tall alien tribe in the much-anticipated science fiction epic, Avatar. Here he explains how he created their language, Na'vi: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/8408245.stm>.

Na'vi vs. Klingon:

http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/film/article6954138.ece.

Surtitles are for dummies

The Guardian offers a guide to watching theatre in a foreign language. Don't understand a word? Don't worry. There's still a lot to engage with (but read the text beforehand):

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/charlottehigginsblog/2009/dec/14/theatre-foreign-language>.

Academies encouraged to go for 'soft' subjects

According to The Times, Some academy schools are boosting their exam results by concentrating on "soft" vocational courses at the expense of more challenging academic subjects, a study says. Geography, history, single sciences and modern languages are disappearing at GCSE level in some academies in favour of vocational qualifications such as computer studies, general science or sport, it suggests:

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article6955886.ece.

Boys learn Italian during rugby

Children at a Bath school are learning a new language in a novel way ahead of an upcoming rugby tour to Italy. The pupils from Culverhay School are having their rugby training sessions conducted entirely in Italian:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/bristol/hi/people_and_places/newsid_8386000/8386117.stm.

The beckoning silence

Of the 6,500 languages spoken in the world, half are expected to die out by the end of this century. Now, one man is trying to keep those voices alive by reigniting local pride in heritage and identity: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/the-beckoning-silence-why-half-of-the-worlds-languages-are-in-serious-danger-of-dying-out-1837179.html>.

EVENTS

AULC conference

The 2010 AULC conference and AGM will be hosted by the University of Exeter, and take place 7th-8th January. See: <http://www.aulc.org/> for more details. Please do come along and say hello - I will be there on Thursday 7th!

MYLO - the latest

The eagle-eyed Graham Davies has circulated the latest developments on MYLO: feedback from students: <http://dcsf.typepad.com/osfl/2009/12/pupils-give-the-thumbs-up.html> and MYLO mentioned in The Independent: <http://dcsf.typepad.com/osfl/2009/12/mylo-makes-the-independent.html>.

CILT have added that Joe Dale is presenting MYLO at BETT on Friday, January 15th at 5pm, and MYLO will also be at the Education Show and Language World in March 2010, where it will be officially launched.

CILT have also issued the following statement about MYLO:

An exciting new way to learn languages through computer games and challenges is being unveiled at this year's BETT conference. MYLO, a free online learning resource aimed at students aged from 14 to 16, is being launched in March but visitors to BETT are being offered an exclusive preview. It's a great opportunity for teachers to sample some of the range of learning materials it'll offer.

MYLO will enable students to learn French, German, Spanish and Mandarin through computer activities which include producing a TV advert, working in a French fashion house and designing a football kit. With practice materials, online dictionaries, phrase books,

background information and plenty of hints and tips, learners will have everything they need to complete tasks online.

Kate Board, Chief Executive of CILT, the National Centre for Languages, says: "The fun, innovative and creative approach to learning that MYLO offers is just what the languages world has been waiting for. If we want to reverse the downward trend in GCSE take-up, we need to connect with young people in a way they can relate to – and show them how they could use languages in a whole range of situations in later life."

MYLO has been piloted and developed with the input of a number of schools and educational bodies, and teachers so far have likened it to a classroom version of the Apprentice. They report that it gets young people excited about languages, and helps them develop skills in delegating, group work and project management. "That's one of the great things about it," says one Head of Modern Foreign Languages. "MYLO helps develop skills that will help students not only in other subjects, but also throughout life."

MYLO will also engage students through introducing a social networking element that allows them to become part of a MYLO community. Once their school is registered with MYLO, students can create their own online profile, comment on the work of their peers, get feedback from their teachers online and even compete against other schools. Teachers will also be able to create special playlists of activities for their pupils, to tie in with their own study requirements and personal interests.

MYLO will be featured on the DCSF stand and demonstrated at the conference by languages and ICT expert Joe Dale at 5pm on Friday January 15th. Joe Dale says: "The success of MYLO rests on its capability to harness the potential of new technologies to create the sort of real, collaborative and personalised learning environment that young people will find truly engaging and empowering for their own individual needs and passions."

In the meantime, to sign up for MYLO, and get more information on how it will work, go to www.hellomylo.com.

If you are interested in attending the event on MYLO at BETT, you can read more about it here: <http://www.bettshow.com/page.cfm/action=Seminars/SeminarID=67>.

BETT

If you are thinking of going along to BETT, it's running 13th-16th January in Olympia, London. Find out more and plan your visit at: <http://www.bettshow.com/>

International Mother Language Day 2010

There's ample time to prepare for International Mother Language Day, proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 1999, has been observed yearly since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. In 2010, this will be celebrated on 21st February. Find out more on the UNESCO website:

http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=38724&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

CILT Primary Languages Show

12th-13th March 2010, Arena & 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.

Language World 2010: Building on firm foundations – steps to success

Language World 2010 is to be held from 26th-27th March 2010 at the University of York, and will 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.

Come along and visit us on stand 36!

Arabic Language and Culture in Schools conference

The British Council have confirmed that the annual 'Arabic Language & Culture in Schools' conference will be held on Thursday 11 March 2010. This is a free 1 day event aimed at teachers of Arabic and those interested in introducing Arabic language and culture into their schools (state or supplementary). The event will be hosted at the British Council offices in London supported by the Arabic Network (Department for Children Schools & Families, British Council, Specialist Schools & Academies Trust, CiLT, the Association for Language Learning and CASAW- Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World). There will be workshop sessions from a variety of different organisations and speakers to support practitioners. More details about the programme and how to register to take part will be provided in January 2010.

RESOURCES

Sunderland MFL resources - parts of the body and advent calendar

I have been reminded of the ever-wonderful Sunderland MFL pages by this link to resources for teaching parts of the body/describing physical appearance being recommended on a forum. It is for Spanish but can be adapted to any language:

<http://www.sunderlandschools.org/mfl-sunderland/resources-sp-ks3-wks.htm#des>.

They also have this great advent calendar that promotes intercultural understanding when you click on its doors. Sadly it is too late for this Christmas, but bookmark it for next!:

<http://www.sunderlandschools.org/international/advent-calendar.htm>.

Arabic play and website

Recommended on the Arabic forum is an Arabic play for kids called: The Princess and The Fisherman (Al Ameera w Assammak): <http://www.assaha.ca/kidstory1.html>. Apparently the website has many other useful pages as well: www.assaha.ca/artservices.htm and <http://www.assaha.ca/family.html>.

Es schneit! and other songs

Following a request for modern German Christmas songs, the following links to 'Es Schneit!' were recommended on the forum: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_y7njVwxXg and <http://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=1308&c=38>. The Mama Lisa website also has other songs from around the world, including a wide selection from Latin America and Europe. Also, here are the lyrics to Kling, Glöckchen: <http://german.about.com/library/blklingg.htm> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7LrC6ss21o>; O Tannenbaum: <http://german.about.com/library/blotannenb.htm> and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_5EZVYJ5zM; or O du Frohliche, o du Selige: http://german.about.com/library/blmus_dufroehlich.htm and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QccrZ-E14X8>.

L'Europe et nous!

A resource recommended by Marie-France Perkins as 'lovely "témoignages" here to celebrate Europe's 50th anniversary': <http://www.clemi.ac-aix-marseille.fr/cyberfax/spip.php?rubrique9>. She also suggested: http://europa.eu/abc/index_fr.htm for use in cross-curricular projects.

French quiz

This quiz was recommended by a Linguanetter who said: I have just found a nice French website with hundreds of quizzes - could be useful for end of term lessons, especially if you have a white board! It looks like you can also make your own quizzes: www.quizz.biz/annuaire/recherche.php.

Fiestas de España

Neil Jones has drawn attention to his blog's coverage of festivals and Christmas in Spanish. See: www.mfljones.wordpress.com.

Célébrités

Marie-France Perkins has recommended this powerpoint as great for reading comprehension: <http://www.glamspeak.com/pdf/open.cfm/Les%2040%20c%E9l%E9brit%E9s%20luxe.pdf>.

Thierry Henry

Just to add insult to injury, a French song about Thierry Henry's escapades on the football field as recommended on the MFL Resources forum. Complete with lyrics!

<http://www.lachansondudimanche.com/2009/11/21/thierry-henry-la-chanson-du-dimanche-de-lavent-n%C2%B03.html>.

Euroclub Schools - Christmas spectacular

Another great Christmas site covering France, Italy and Spain, full of quizzes, songs and jokes for all ages! <http://www.euroclubschools.org.uk/index.htm>.

Global Warming in German

These animations about global warming have been recommended as of being potentially useful for starter activities: <http://www.toonga.de/>. A must for all penguin fans.

Universal online Cyrillic decoder

The Scotland-Russia Forum have recommended the following resource to help those who 'get occasional emails in gobbledegook': <http://2cyr.com/decode/?lang=en>.

SURVEYS & COMPETITIONS

Adult Learners Week Awards 2010

If you know extraordinary and inspiring adult learners and want to give them the recognition they deserve, why not nominate them for an Adult Learners' Week Award? The awards recognise outstanding adults who have transformed their lives through learning. There are four main award categories; individuals, groups, families and Opening Doors (projects); but nominations may also be eligible for additional special awards, sponsored by a raft of prestigious organisations. All award categories are open to learners living in England only. Winners will receive a learning voucher valued between £200 and £1,500, and all nominees for an award will receive a certificate of achievement.

For a nomination form, go to: www.niace.org.uk/alw/nominations/default.htm to order or download in PDF and Word formats, or nominate online.

For more information, visit: www.alw.org.uk/nominate, read the guidance notes and eligibility criteria, email: alw@niace.org.uk, or contact the Campaigns and Promotions team at NIACE on 0116 2044200.

China Competition for UK Schools with Students aged 5-11

The China Competition, supported by the HSBC Global Education Programme and run by the British Council, is open to UK primary schools and SEN schools with an existing partnership with a school in China. The theme of this year's competition is "Comparing Traditional Stories, Myths and Legends". The competition provides an opportunity for participating linked schools to further develop their work together by collaborating on the research and production of a performance in English by the UK school of a traditional Chinese story, myth or legend. The winning school in each of the three categories will receive £3,000 to support their school partnership with China.

Schools wishing to enter the competition must register by 8th January 2010 and the deadline for submissions is 31st March 2010.

Interested schools should visit: www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-china.htm.

China Activity Grants

Supported by the HSBC Global Education Programme and managed by the British Council, this opportunity is designed to help schools (primary, secondary and SEN), sixth form colleges and FE colleges across the UK to arrange events or activities that will help their students learn more about China or the Mandarin Chinese language. As part of the grant application, they must show how the students will pass on what they have learnt to other members of the community, supporting community cohesion. Schools and colleges can apply for grants of up to £750.

For the second round of grants, (for activity between April and July 2010) applications can be submitted from 1st February 2010 and must be received by 1st March 2010. Interested schools should visit: www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-china.htm.

National Arabic Declamation Contest 2010

Haroon Shirwani, Head of Arabic at Eton, has sent a message to the Arabic Network inviting people to bring their students to Eton College on Sunday 7th March for 2010's National Arabic Declamation Contest. He says: 'Last time was a lovely experience, and I learnt a few lessons in terms of organising an event like this. This one is going to be a lot more structured and instructions will be provided more clearly; judges will have proper judging sheets to fill out for each competitor; all texts will be provided, including transliterations; I will make sure there are more refreshments; and certificates will be ready on the day. The buzzing atmosphere and superb performances will be the same as before, if not better.'

If you are interested in participating this academic year, please could you let him know as soon as possible. You can contact him at: haroonshirwani@HOTMAIL.COM.

Linguistics for intercultural education in language learning and teaching

There has been a call for chapters issued for this publication. Abstracts are due 1st March 2010. You can read more at: <http://users.utu.fi/freder/CFCLinguisticsinterculturalaeducation.pdf>.

LinkedUp award scheme

A message from Kathy Wickstead of ALL:

A reminder that the next deadline for the LinkUp Award Scheme is 15th December 2009. Full information and an application form are available on www.linksintolanguages.ac.uk/linkedup. The scheme will fund over 100 collaborative curriculum development projects. It runs up to March 2011, but the last date for accepting applications is 23rd April 2010. If you have an innovative idea for the curriculum that you would like to take further, please get in touch. Projects have mentor support and great opportunities to disseminate their ideas locally and nationally. Proposals can be submitted by schools (any age range), 16-19 colleges, universities, local authorities and other organisations. In most cases funding of around £3,000 is available.

We are happy to discuss ideas for projects - phone me on the number below to have a chat or email kathyw@all-languages.org.uk. For organisational/admin queries, please contact Ingrid Nyaundi on linkedup@all-languages.org.uk or phone 0116 229 7454.

If you know other bright sparks with interesting ideas for developing learning in languages, we would be really grateful if you could encourage them to consider applying too.

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 confirm your interest by 30th November 2009 to Katya Solovyova at info@russianessaycompetition.co.uk.

JLC Speech Contest

The Japanese Language Centre have announced its 2010 speech contest with the following

message:

I am pleased to announce that the JLC will once again be running its speech contest. The theme for KS3 will be "My Favourite Person", and pupils should prepare a 2-3 minute speech on this theme.

KS4 and KS5 will be re-organised slightly this year, and split by learning experience as pre-GCSE or post-GCSE (but across all 4 year groups). Closing date will be no earlier than 31st March 2010.

I am delighted to say sponsorship and prizes are all in place as per previous years, so we have some good prizes! First prizes have been confirmed as laptops, once again kindly donated by Toshiba.

Full details will be available in January, and the website will also be updated in January with full details.

The "free" speech theme is not as easy as it first sounds - please guide them to think carefully about what they are passionate about, what they really want to communicate to an audience (i.e. they must have a MESSAGE), and ideally, the sort of buzz words the judges like are "akarui" "wakamono rashii" "kokusaiteki". If you are an IB school, your sixth form ab initio students can participate in the pre-GCSE category.

Please do keep an eye on their website for further details: <http://www.jlcweb.org.uk/>.

Survey on MFL delivery in schools

The TDA has commissioned a consortium comprising the Institute of Education with the University of Sheffield, the University of Wolverhampton and the Association for Language Learning to carry out research into issues surrounding the delivery of languages in schools in England, with specific reference to lesser-taught languages and to use findings to inform the development of a long-term strategy for the sustainable, equitable and high quality delivery of all world languages in schools in England.

This two year project aims to have a positive and permanent impact on the field of language teaching so that:

- language departments will be able to effectively support and develop teaching and non-teaching staff of all languages taught in the school;
- those who deliver, or want to deliver, world language teaching in schools will have opportunities to gain the relevant qualifications to allow them to progress in their career;
- schools will be able to offer any world language that the market demands, in a creative and integrated way;
- children will have access to high quality teaching of all world languages.

Throughout December and January people are asked to go to www.tda.gov.uk/worldlanguages to complete an online survey; it will take just 20 minutes. Once collected, the evidence will inform a first draft of the strategy, on which there will be consultation events in the autumn.

Please forward this to colleagues who you think might be interested to encourage them to take part and make sure their voice is heard as well.

Links into Languages Survey

ALL is a partner in the Links into Languages initiative. One of the aims of Links is to provide professional development for teachers in all English regions, so that language teachers across the country have the same access to a core CPD programme, as well as a tailored programme of regional training.

Links would like to find out more from you about your CPD needs and invites you to complete the Links into Languages Teachers' Survey. Teachers who complete the survey can win free places at Links training events or a free place at the SSAT international seminar for senior leaders in Bruges in February 2010.

For more information, see:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5aUi_2f0S2VpgKfvMZvsM2JA_3d_3d.

Franco British Council Short Story Contest

The Franco-British Council, together with Prospect Magazine and Eurostar, announces the third year of its short story prize. The competition, launched by writer and broadcaster Bonnie Greer, aims to encourage young people to engage with French culture.

The emphasis is on the imagination and entrants are invited to take an idea of France, an incident in a French lesson, an encounter with French food or reverence for a French sports

star as the catalyst for their tale. Whether or not they have travelled to France entrants should let their imaginations take flight, using something French or some aspect of France as their inspiration.

Entrants are invited in two categories: Aged between 16 and 18 and between 19 and 25. Prizes include two return Eurostar tickets to France and various cash prizes, and best entries will be published in Prospect magazine and by the FBC in an anthology of short stories.

For more information and conditions of entry please go to:

<http://www.francobritishcouncil.org.uk/pages/short-stories.html> or email adampreston@francobritishcouncil.org.uk.

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.

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