

Dear colleagues,

At a time when MFL as a discipline continues to face serious challenges, it is a pleasure to announce that there are some very positive developments afoot! Primary MFL continues to expand and flourish, and we expect that external evaluators of the 6-year Key Stage 2 Pilot Project will soon present a very positive final report to the Assembly Government. Primary MFL can fit perfectly into the 'global citizenship' work already being undertaken in many schools, and it was pleasing to see that fact recognised in a recent award ceremony. Ysgol y Dderi in Ceredigion picked up a British Council/WIDE/CILT Cymru award for 'use of MFL within an international project'. In the case of Ysgol y Dderi, the language learnt was Mandarin Chinese, but the award is open to all languages and to entrants from either primary or secondary sectors. For more information on this and other awards sponsored by British Council, go to <http://www.britishcouncil.org/wales-school-partnership-international-awards-ceremony.htm>

The next awards will be presented in April 2010, so if you are active in this field then get your application in soon!

As well as benefitting from continued investment in 'Better Schools Fund', primary languages will also receive a boost with the

establishment of a new 'Innovator Schools' Network'. The aim will be to spread the good practice identified over the last 6 years to new clusters of schools all around Wales. Watch the CILT Cymru website and our mailings for more detail on this exciting development.

On p.6 of this newsletter you can read about a new HE-focused project called 'Routes into Languages Cymru'. The aim is to attract more young people into studying MFL at university, and we look forward to building bridges between the HE, FE and school sectors in a drive to get this message across. With just 25% of the world's population able to speak English, it is time to attack the commonly-held view that 'English is enough'.

Finally, our NVQ pilot scheme for MFL is now in full swing. It is crucial that we as a languages community respond positively to WAG's 14-19 Learning Pathways agenda. If we fail to make the case for languages as an essential (and vocational) skill in the modern world, then we shall be failing not only our subject, but also our young people. So there's plenty to do in 2010! We look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Ceri James

Ceri James
Director, CILT Cymru

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Children from Ysgol y Dderi receive their prize for 'use of a foreign language within an international project'

International Day of Languages at Barry

On the 25th September Barry Comprehensive School celebrated European Day of Languages (renamed International Day of Languages!). Year 7 pupils took part in different activities during the day. Taster lessons were given in various languages- German, Finnish, Chinese, Italian and Spanish and these were given by the languages Department, Mr Peacock and former colleagues (Mr Pereira, Mrs Hemmings and Mrs Bicaregui). Fun was had in the Art Department where pupils enjoyed making masks showing different countries and pupils made lots of noise in Music looking at Carnival of the Animals. Other pupils had the opportunity of making tapas with Mr Pereira and Mrs Lancaster. They were even treated to Mr Pereira's guitar playing! A quiz was also held with prizes. Miss Evans would like to thank everyone who took part for their support.

Working together to tackle oracy

As part of the Compact partnership between CILT Cymru and Swansea LEA, a group of teachers formed a working party to produce oracy activities. Over two days in July 2009, Clare Hyndman of Penyrheol Comprehensive, Alison Jones, from Pentrehafod Comprehensive, Julia Lewis of Pontarddulais Comprehensive and Jo Thomas, of Birchgrove Comprehensive picked random tracks from old teaching CDs and tapes to use as stimulus materials. It was so easy to find simple activities to do with this material that encourage pupils to explore the language used in the text and to then use it themselves to create their own presentations and conversations. Spurred on by our success, we then looked at how to use clips from well-known movies on DVD and created a speaking scaffold to encourage pupils to use target language in more creative ways.

At the end of the two days, all involved felt that they had been inspired to go back to school and find uses for all those old tapes and CDs lying around in the MFL department cupboard! The trick is to identify key language structures in the track and use them to show pupils how to use these structures. Pupils will find this work a lot more helpful than a listening comprehension that tests their understanding of meaning and takes them no further.

A CD and teachers' pack was produced at the end of the working party, which has been distributed to all Swansea MFL departments and is also available via the Swansea moodle. Activities and ideas from the pack will shortly be available on the Compact section of the CILT Cymru website.

I have since used two of the activities from the pack on our Exploring the new National Curriculum for MFL: 'to boldly go beyond the pencil case!' course and they were very well received by participants.

If you would like to develop oracy activities with others in your department or your local area, please don't hesitate to contact Kristina or Ciara in the usual way.

Quick tips from Compact Schools

Flint High School gets its pupils reading

In an effort to get their pupils reading, Flint High School's MFL department has worked together with the school library to create a French reading corner. The reading area has been a great success both in lessons where groups are taken there by their teacher and during break and lunchtimes when pupils come along and read for pleasure themselves.



Flint High School pupils enjoying their library's French reading corner

Having fun with texts and puppets in Argoed High School

For their Compact project this year, teachers at Argoed High School used the software package Fun with Texts (available from Camsoft Partners <http://www.camsoftpartners.co.uk/fwt.htm>) to encourage pupils to improve their writing skills. Pupils in year 11 found the package particularly useful in improving their coursework results and their overall confidence. Head of department Kath Holton explained that the inbuilt scoring system showing marks and percentages was particularly motivating for the boys, who liked competing against each other.

The software also allows you to upload audio and video files so that pupils can practise their oracy skills. Using their Compact funding, the department is purchasing flip easy-use video cameras and puppets with which pupils can practise their oral presentations. As well as being highly motivating in key stage 3, the use of puppets is proving successful in GCSE lessons where pupils find them extremely helpful for practising for the presentation part of the new GCSE oral assessment.

As Kath says, "amazing how uninhibited pupils become just with a puppet on their hand!" Once pupils have been videoed using the puppets, the department plans to upload the clips to fun with texts for pupils to practise with.



Argoed puppets being filmed!



Puppets prove very popular with Argoed pupils.

BLC Revamped

The Business Language Champions (BLC) Scheme has recently been given a UK wide revamp which includes a brand new logo as well as a set of attractive explanatory leaflets for both businesses and schools.

The BLC programme is proving extremely motivating for MFL students since it highlights the importance of MFL by enabling students to see first-hand the employability benefits of languages in the workplace. Students undertake visits and work with the business to tackle specific language projects. BLC covers all industries and all sectors from large multinationals to smaller SMEs from engineering to tourism. Businesses also benefit from the scheme since it raises their profile within the community and gives them an opportunity to inspire potential employees of the future!

In Wales, the BLC Scheme incorporates existing partnerships from the former Languages Champion Scheme, and is a really inspiring opportunity for students who are studying the NVQ in business languages. The rebranding more accurately reflects the



growing links between businesses and schools. These exciting new partnerships are really taking off in Wales. We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas of your own to offer with regards to potential businesses partnerships. Also, if your school would be interested in joining the scheme or requires further information, please contact Bethan Enticott: bethan.enticott@ciltcymru.org.uk

Bring languages to life through eTwinning

Give language learning a real context and your pupils a real audience for their work by collaborating with partners around Europe using ICT.

eTwinning is a European Commission programme that enables teachers and pupils in 32 European countries to work together using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). As a school or college (working with pupils and students between the ages of 3 and 20) you can register your details, find partner schools and work together online with them on curriculum based projects - absolutely free of charge. With over 73,000 registered teachers from around Europe, why not join today www.etwinning.net?

eTwinning is a great way to enhance the language learning experience of pupils as they get the opportunity to communicate with native speakers of the language they are learning, as well as share work and ideas with peers in other countries.



Ben Ford from Pontlliw Primary School in Swansea is involved in an exciting and innovative eTwinning project called 'Let's Go! Language' – Learning Languages – Exploring Europe – Making Friends. “

School children from all over Europe are encouraged to record themselves speaking a series of phrases in their own language using simple digital equipment. The phrases that the children record can then be watched, listened to and even downloaded onto an mp3 player from www.letsgolanguage.com. The children from each country help each other to learn their own language. Teachers also have opportunity to upload resources to help teach foreign languages in their schools”.

So, if you would like to get involved in a project like Ben's or find a class in another European country to let your pupils have email 'pen pals' why not register today and get started www.etwinning.net?

For more information about eTwinning you can contact Owain Wright at British Council Wales owain.wright@britishcouncil.org.

PRIMARY LANGUAGES

Primary Update

Where did the Christmas holidays go? CILT Cymru has been busy organising training days, visits abroad, making resources, designing a new website and promoting the new Innovator School Network, due to be created from Jan 2010. While primary MFL remains a non-statutory subject we have a lot of work to do in raising awareness and promoting the indisputable benefits that a modern foreign language can bring not only to the primary curriculum, but to relationships between schools and key stages. That's where you come in! Do you have International links? How do you celebrate and integrate diverse cultures that may exist in your school? Do you hold language days or assemblies? Any good transition ideas? If so, we'd love to hear about them and build up a resource bank of good practice that we can share with other schools in Wales. Contact primary language advisers Sian or Carolyn at CILT Cymru

sian.holleran@ciltcymru.org.uk (029) 20480137 carolyn.goodwin@ciltcymru.org.uk

Innovator School Network

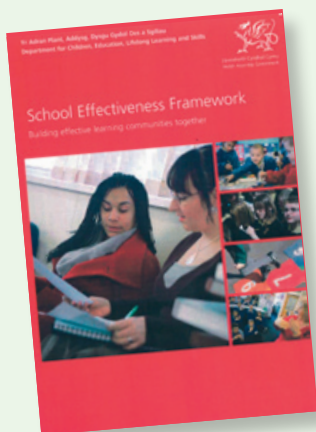
In our last Newsletter in the summer, we were pleased to be able to mention the future of primary languages in the form of the "Innovator School Network". The Network will be made up of clusters of primary-secondary schools already involved in successful MFL delivery. They will work closely with their LEA and CILT Cymru Advisers. The role of these Centres of Excellence will be to help new clusters develop their own KS2-3 language provision. Clusters will be awarded a grant to assist them in this objective over 3 years. If your cluster feels it has a

well-established, successful, replicable model, then please look out for a letter coming to schools/LEAs very soon, inviting you to outline your plans to develop PMFL in your area. A 'check-list' of what we already know to be good practice will be on the primary pages of our website in the next few weeks. If you feel that you fulfill / could develop the criteria listed, please download the cluster application form and send it in by the deadline stated on-line. If this opportunity interests you, why not start the ball rolling and get talking as a cluster!

The School Effectiveness Framework (2009)

This new document from the Welsh Assembly provides guidance for schools, LEAs, outside partners and the Assembly itself. It is not subject specific but on closer reading, lends itself perfectly to what we would like to achieve with the up and coming

Innovator School Network. It encourages all key stakeholders to "work as families of schools...develop professional learning communities...create strong, supportive local systems... facilitate schools learning from one another and districts learning from each other". There is so much good practice in primary languages to be found the length and breadth of Wales that we would like your help to share it - either through a series of "What's it all about?" Roadshows planned for next year, case-studies on our website or future documentation we would like to produce to share with schools. We need your ideas!



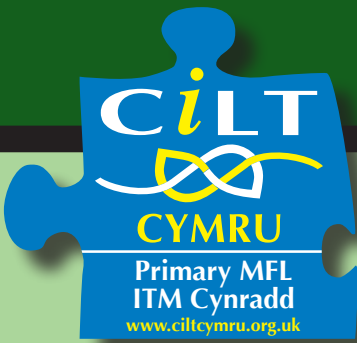
Final evaluation report on the KS2 MFL primary project – ARAD



A very positive final evaluation report on the KS2 MFL primary project, which was managed by CILT Cymru (2003-2009), was published in December 2009

The findings of the report focus on the positive impact that the pilot project has had on pupils, schools and MFL provision as well as the wider impact of the pilot programme on transition, professional development and triple literacy.

Once the report is in the public domain, the full report will be posted on the CILT Cymru website for you to download.



Supporting primary-secondary transition in MFL

"Innovative teaching methods demonstrated, a refreshingly hands-on, lively day!"
(secondary teacher)

"Really good, creative, practical ideas to use with MFL or Welsh – the trainers showed us how to make the link between the languages"
(primary class-teacher)

Training Opportunities for Primary and Secondary

Our brand new programme of KS2 CPD will begin in April 2010, so look out for the **PRIMARY** section in our glossy CPD programme coming your way in the Easter term. The programme will include a travelling Roadshow for people to find out how primary MFL can enrich the KS2 curriculum – look out for a Roadshow in your area in 2010.

For those of you who have already started but are in need of a range of innovative and practical ideas to build on progress so far, we are planning a tailor-made day of CPD specifically for you. We will of course continue to offer our up-skilling Improvers' days for primary practitioners in French and Spanish and there will also be a joint prim-sec German language day run by the Goethe. What an exciting programme!

For now, we have 2 primary courses left in this year's CPD programme, one for the North and one for the South:

Getting Started	(PR04)	Tuesday 16th March	CILT Cymru offices, Cardiff Bay
Getting Started	(PR05)	Thursday 18th March	Technium OpTIK, St.Asaph

The content of all our KS2 courses have been judged 100% good/excellent, so come along and experience a range of activities to enhance your language teaching!

Bordeaux and Schwäbisch Hall – here we come!!

The 2-week primary teacher project

We are delighted to announce that 26 primary school teachers have been awarded British Council funding to take part in the 2-week primary teacher project 2010.

23 brave primary teachers will be heading to Bordeaux in France and 3 will be venturing to Schwäbisch Hall in Germany in April 2010 to job shadow primary school teachers in those countries.

In order to prepare the teachers for their visits to France and Germany, there will be a week's intensive language tuition in mid-Wales prior to the job shadowing week. During this week, we aim to develop the teachers' confidence in primary MFL methodology as well as improving their own language skills so that they can make the most of their time abroad and develop sustainable links with their partner schools in France and Germany.

TOP TEACHING TIPS

Punchy plenaries...with minimal preparation!

1 Snowball!

Aim: Working together

- 30 seconds to write down as many topic words individually
- 1 minute to work with a partner comparing and adding to their list
- 2 minutes to work with their table comparing and adding to their list
- Go around the class, table by table and write the words on the board

Scoring system

- Words written down by more than one table do not count
- Unique words get a point
- The table with the most points wins!

2 What's missing?

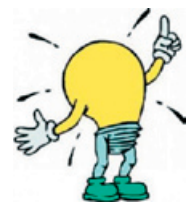
Aim: Pupils guess the missing word/number

- Read out a list of days of the week, months of the year, numbers 1 – 10 and leave one word out of the list

3 Stand up Bingo

Aim: To be the last one standing by not having any of their words called out!

- Pupils write down 3 words from that lesson's vocabulary
- All pupils stand up to start
- Pupils sit down as soon as any one of the words on their list has been called



Routes into Languages Cymru

Wales has now officially joined the Routes into Languages project, the main aim of which is to attract more young people into studying MFL at university level, whether as a specialist degree subject or as a subsidiary subject. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales is investing £750,000 over 3 years in this exciting project, bringing Wales into line with England, where 9 regional consortia are now entering their third year of project activity.

**To learn more, contact Ceri James
or Ellie Jones at CILT Cymru**

Tel: 02920 480137

**E-mail: Ceri.James@ciltcymru.org.uk
or**

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The new Routes Cymru team will be based at the offices of CILT Cymru in Cardiff Bay, and will consist of:

- Ceri James – Project Director (part-time)
- Ellie Jones – Project Manager (full-time)
- To be appointed – Project Co-ordinator/ Administrative officer (Please see 'News' section of CILT Cymru website for details of this post)

The Routes Cymru project will seek to build on foundations already laid by CILT Cymru over the last 7 years, and will aim to develop activity in the following areas:

- Outreach events for schoolchildren focusing on opportunities for work or study at HE level and beyond;
- Languages & careers talks, flyers and web-pages;
- Language taster sessions;
- Student Language Ambassadors;
- Community languages, including Mandarin Chinese;
- Raising awareness of MFL needs;
- Vocational qualifications for MFL and related training for teachers;
- Business links (Business Language Champions scheme).

CILT Cymru INSET & events Calendar

Please go to the events page on the CILT Cymru website for details of all courses.

<http://www.ciltcymru.org.uk/english/events.htm>

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