

**ISSUE 27 | SUMMER 2011**

[www.ciltcymru.org.uk/english](http://www.ciltcymru.org.uk/english)

**Dear colleagues,**

At times of economic austerity and cutbacks it is inevitable that we are obliged to consider which elements of our public services are deemed 'essential', and which are thought to be a bit of a luxury. Despite the best intentions of governments both local and central, the budgets of learning institutions (whether they be schools, colleges, universities or centres of lifelong learning) are under more pressure now than for many years. However the consequences of 'feeling the pinch' are not always entirely negative, and as older generations know, 'necessity is the mother of invention'!

Faced by falling numbers attending CPD courses provided by CILT Cymru, we too have had to examine our provision to ensure that our 'customers' are able to benefit from it. 97.51% of our CPD sessions have been rated either 'good' or 'excellent' in recent years, so we are confident that the 'product' is of high quality. However a combination of shrinking departmental budgets, 'rarely cover' measures and a tendency to use internal resources in schools means that we have had to change the ways in which we deliver CPD. From now on, although our CPD programme will include a number of 'traditional' courses with dates fixed well in advance, we shall also offer alternative models of training that can be accessed by schools or groups of schools, LEAs or consortia. We can provide input on a variety of themes, from developing literacy skills to setting up a Professional Learning Community with a focus on MFL. Our 'menu' of training opportunities will be published on our website soon, and copies sent to schools, but in the meantime, please do

not hesitate to contact our Programme Manager with your training requirements – [Kristina.Hedges@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:Kristina.Hedges@ciltcymru.org.uk)

Meanwhile, the 'Speak to the Future' campaign for MFL is gathering momentum, and there are moves afoot east of Offa's Dyke to bolster the subject within the 'English Baccalaureate'. We hope that the increased media attention and the Westminster government's emphasis on MFL will have a knock-on effect in Wales, where just a quarter of our young people continue to learn a foreign language after the age of 14. Further good news from England came in the form of a decision by HEFCE to extend the 'Routes into Languages' programme until July 2012. This means that our 'Routes Cymru' team will not be working in isolation during the third year of the project in Wales.

It may be premature to talk about the 'green shoots of recovery', but at least, despite the grim economic context, there do appear to be some genuine grounds for optimism.

*Please note too that CILT Cymru offices have moved to WJEC, 245 Western Avenue, Cardiff CF5 2YX, so we too are experiencing a new beginning. Our e-mail addresses will remain the same, but our contact telephone number has changed to 02920 265400. Our annual conference will be held at our new home on July 1st, so we look forward to seeing you @ WJEC!*



**Ceri James**, Director, CILT Cymru

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**Pullout -  
Routes into Languages  
Cymru Newsletter**



*Language students make the link with international business at Ancon in Deeside*

☎ 02920 265 400

[www.ciltcymru.org.uk](http://www.ciltcymru.org.uk)

## Music as a Motivator

The Modern Foreign Languages Department at Pembroke School comprises 5 members of staff, all of whom are now using music in lessons in some form or another to motivate pupils and engage them in their learning.

The strategies appear to be working, in all year groups. Here are some of the ways in which the department has used "Music as a motivator" in lessons:

- For starter / re-cap / plenary activities, whereby classes have to see how many questions they can answer by the time a song finishes – this has proved particularly useful when Task Magic is being used in the "Drag and Match" section, to see if they can actually beat the song.
- Instead of giving pupils a concrete time for activities, a number of songs are played, for example "You have got until the end of the fourth song to complete this activity".
- Music has often been used in lessons for the more challenging groups, to be played in the background – and pupils can put their requests into a box on entry into the classroom. This has a calming effect, especially as the ownership of the music is on the pupils and not the teacher – beware: some (if not most) of the songs you will not recognise! Music is used in other classes also to assist concentration.
- Pupils have even been known to make up their own songs and raps to aid learning of vocabulary!

It is clear that pupils enjoy the musical side to the lessons, and it is something that the department will continue to support!

## New online training materials for MFL teachers

### Online training

CILT Cymru's language teaching advisers are developing on-line training modules for language teachers.

### Easy to use

The short modules are designed for use as departmental training materials and are based on material from the DVD-Rom *Making Languages Count: inspiring success and raising take-up in MFL through the CILT Cymru Compact scheme*, which was sent free to all maintained secondary schools in Wales in September 2008.



our first online training module

The modules include discussion points and activities for use before, during and after watching the video clips. They are deliberately designed to be easy to use and not too time-consuming. "I'm hoping departments might even be able to use them during departmental meetings. Departmental time is all too often taken up with administration and I'd like to think these modules will offer an opportunity to allow departments to focus on methodology once in a while," said Kristina Hedges, Programme Manager and Language Teaching Adviser. "There was so much inspiring stuff going on in classrooms up and down the country, which was why we made the DVD-Rom in the first place and it's nice that our new website [www.ciltcymru.org.uk](http://www.ciltcymru.org.uk) has given us the capacity to revisit the video clips and incorporate them into new training modules. We're aware that teachers find it difficult to attend training events, so we wanted to offer them a chance to access some training materials in school or at home as well."

## The CILT Cymru Compact

The CILT Cymru Compact allows schools to work with the support of CILT Cymru on projects to improve standards and take-up in MFL.

For more information and details of how to become a Compact partner, please visit our website or contact Kristina [kristina.hedges@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:kristina.hedges@ciltcymru.org.uk) or Ciara [ciara.brennan@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:ciara.brennan@ciltcymru.org.uk) directly.

## NVQ in business French makes language learning more accessible to pupils at Hawthorn High School

If you are looking for ways to increase motivation amongst your pupils, maybe you should take a leaf out of Hawthorn High School's book.

According to Helen Morgan, Head of MFL at Hawthorn High School, both teachers and pupils are greatly benefiting from the introduction of the French for Business NVQ.



The year 9 students at Hawthorn High School show off their NVQ portfolios

Helen Morgan said that thanks to the NVQ, pupils are now more motivated and that discipline has also improved since the NVQ was introduced. She has also noticed that the course appeals to the learning styles of the pupils. "Students like the short term, realistic goals of the course"

And it is not just the teachers who think so. Students only have good words to say about the qualification. Year 9 student, Shanandeep Bahia said that she enjoyed the course because it was more understandable than the French course that she had studied in the past.

Another pupil explained why he was enjoying the course so much "I like the fact that the NVQ is practical and that it shows you how important languages are and how far they can take you".

Such glowing feedback comes on the back of a highly successful visit to the offices of law firm, Eversheds in Cardiff during which the pupils really cottoned on to the fact that MFL is a relevant subject. Without a doubt, the NVQ has transformed perceptions of MFL at Hawthorn High School and maybe it could do the same for your school?

## French Grammar Resource

This resource supports the learning and practising of modern foreign language grammar and structures in a way that is attractive, enjoyable and engaging. It can be used with whole classes or with individual pupils. There are five zones to explore with three subsections in each. Each subsection has three levels of content that allows the learner to progress through the grammar, presented in a motivating context. There is a comprehensive 'Tools' section where the whole content is mapped and information for downloading and printing is available. **Spanish Grammar and German Grammar will also be available soon.**

Resources can be accessed via the NGFL Cymru website at [www.ngflcymru.org.uk](http://www.ngflcymru.org.uk)



## España viene a Wrexham!

Spain came to Wrexham on Friday the 18th of March when year 10 NVQ students from Ysgol Uwchradd Maes Garmon benefitted from a satellite link up with the Spanish olive company Crespo, based in Seville.

Siân Enticott, Export Manager at the company virtually met the students in a Spanish business meeting. The students then conducted an interview with Siân about her job in Spanish.

Siân asked the students to go and plan a business trip for her to Guadalajara in Mexico. They had to identify the most suitable method of travelling and accommodation for the visit. Setting such an authentic task really motivated the pupils who were itching to get started on researching the options on the internet.

Siân, originally from Caerphilly, South Wales is a French and Spanish graduate from Aberystwyth University. As an individual who has gone far with languages, she was delighted to use her experiences to help students in Wales to see the benefits of Spanish in the workplace. Bryn Jones, Head of MFL at the school was over the moon with the session saying. "The pupils were delighted to be given this opportunity. It made them realise that a real person who has been in the same shoes as them has gone on to use Spanish everyday. In 40 minutes the session achieved what I have been trying to achieve for years. It was the perfect experience!"

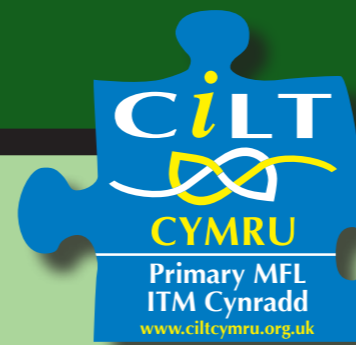


Ysgol Uwchradd Maes Garmon students linked up with Crespo via an exciting skype link at the school

Sam Freeman-Jones, a year 10 pupil who participated in this session added that "the experience will open many doors for us. As students of Spanish, it showed us how useful the language is. The example of a big company like Crespo also gives us an insight into how an international company operates. Speaking Spanish to someone who lives in Spain will give me confidence with the language". Claudia Hughes another participant called it an "unforgettable experience!"

CILT Cymru hopes to continue to take advantage of this exciting technology in order to link up further schools with companies abroad in this way.

# PRIMARY LANGUAGES



Supporting primary-secondary transition in MFL

## Primary Update

A warm welcome back to all of our primary school colleagues – we do hope that you had a relaxing break over the Easter holidays and feel ready to face the challenges of the new term.

We know that for 19 of you, your minds didn't have as much time as normal to switch off from school life during the half term break in February because you were busy conjugating verbs, grappling with nouns and revising tenses in mid-Wales!

We refer, of course, to the 2 Week Primary Teachers' Project and the first week's intensive language tuition in French and Spanish in Llangammarch Wells (organized by CILT Cymru and funded by the British Council and the Welsh Assembly Government). The aim was to prepare the primary school teachers taking part for a follow up week's job shadowing in Bordeaux, France or Murcia, Spain.

For Week 2, CILT Cymru established links with primary schools in both France and Spain and Welsh teachers were able to spend a week job shadowing their French or Spanish counterparts at work.



One enthusiastic participant commented:

*"... an extremely enjoyable week. I feel a lot more prepared for France and for teaching what I've learned back in school"*

## 2-week Primary Teachers' Project (2012)

The Welsh Assembly has already approved funding for the next round of the **2-week primary teachers' project** to be held in February / March 2012. This unique training opportunity is fully funded and allows teachers to take part in a week of intensive language lessons and then spend a week in a primary school in the foreign country. In 2012 we are hoping to offer a job-shadowing week in **France, Spain** and **Germany**. We will be collecting expressions of interest by the end of the summer term so keep an eye on our website for further details or contact Nia Gwyn Jones or Carolyn Goodwin at CILT Cymru.



2 Week Primary Teachers' Project 2011

## CILT Cymru European Day of Languages Poster Competition

### Competition Time!

CILT Cymru will be running the KS2-3 poster competition for the European Day of Languages (Sept 26th) again this year. The challenge to pupils in categories from Year 3 – 9 is to design a poster which sums up the European Day of Languages for them. Entry requirements, how to enter and deadlines (June) are on the KS2 section of our website.

The winning posters will be printed by a professional design company and will be available, free of charge, for schools in Wales on a first come, first served basis ready for the celebrations in September – happy designing!



**If you're involved and linking with schools abroad, make it an opportunity to get your pupils learning a few useful phrases and words in the foreign language.**

## eTwinning



*"eTwinning has been such an easy and effective means of bringing the language and the culture to life for the children. It's also been fantastic for developing their ICT skills... they've absolutely loved it!"*

Primary headteacher

One way of developing and sustaining links with schools in Europe is to link into **www.etwinning.net**

eTwinning is part of Comenius, the EU programme for schools. With links to 31 different countries, it is the 'Community for Schools in Europe' which facilitates collaboration between schools, teachers and pupils in Europe, online. It is free and safe and schools can build and sustain effective links through projects and shared curriculum work. It allows teachers and pupils to work together online using various tools. It is also an effective tool as part of Professional Development.

### The advantages are:

- No application forms or lengthy admission processes.
- A free and safe online environment.
- It could enhance existing links.
- Develops ICT skills.

### Benefits for pupils:

- Increased motivation, as they have an audience for their work in a school in another country
- Enhanced skills, including ICT and foreign languages
- Greater cultural awareness

### There are some great ideas for projects on the Etwinning website, here are just a few:

- Culture is a Box: exchange flags, dragon, map, postcards, books, music
- Exchange Mascots – take photos of your mascot in various places in the country
- Day in the Life: compare your school day or home life
- Pen pals: exchange letters, e-mails, pictures
- Songs and music: exchange songs or create your own Eurovision Contest
- Celebrations: describe events such as St David's Day, Christmas
- Traditions and fairy tales: exchange local folk tales
- Develop an existing projects within your school, e.g. Eco schools, Healthy schools

For more information on how to get involved in eTwinning contact Owain Wright [owainwright@britishcouncil.org](mailto:owainwright@britishcouncil.org) or go to the following websites:

<http://www.slideshare.net/OwainWright>

[http://www.britishcouncil.org/50\\_ideas\\_for\\_international\\_projects.doc](http://www.britishcouncil.org/50_ideas_for_international_projects.doc)

[www.britishcouncil.org/etwinning](http://www.britishcouncil.org/etwinning)

## School news

### Slovenian pupils visit North Wales

Ysgol Tan-y-Marian in North Wales recently received a visit from pupils from Slovenia. In partnership with Ysgol Bryn Elian, who is involved in a Comenius Project with the OSNOVNA ŠOLA FRANA



"Dober dan" from Tan y Marian

ROŠA School, it was arranged that pupils from the school would visit and meet the children at Tan-y-Marian, engage in different activities with them and experience daily life at a Welsh primary school.

All pupils were very excited and had prepared posters, games and gifts for each other. The Slovenian children taught our pupils a game which included a traditional song, which was to become their favourite activity of the day. They also had an opportunity to find out about each other's countries.

Mr Paul Davies, Head teacher at Tan-y-Marian said, "The students from Slovenia were absolutely fantastic and our children got so much out of the session - it was brilliant!"

At break-time, teachers and pupils were invited to sample traditional Welsh cakes and bara brith over a cup of tea and it was agreed by all that these were delicious!

The experience was a great success and after their return to Slovenia, the pupils received letters thanking all at Tan-y-Marian for their warm welcome.

### Aberbanc Primary School

Aberbanc Primary School is a small rural school in the heart of Ceredigion. The pupils enjoy learning about their neighbours in Europe and this term they have focused on France. This was chosen mainly because many of the pupils had spent holidays in France or knew someone who lived there. Pupils research information using books and the web. They learn about the geography, famous landmarks, food tasting and the history of Sioni Winwns. They have also learnt songs, games and rhymes and enjoy practising conversational French with their classmates. Work is shown as colourful displays around the school. Even the catering staff are involved preparing French menus such as beef bourguignon and crêpes. Pupils are enthusiastic and are keen to learn more about their neighbours across the Channel and learn their language. A sound foundation for developing multilingual global citizens in the heart of Ceredigion!

Literacy Focus • Literacy Focus • Literacy Focus • Literacy Focus • Literacy Focus

New DCELLS commissioned resources for MFL teachers and learners



Triple Literacy Posters

This unique pack of display materials, containing 30 posters (10 each in French, German and Spanish) will be distributed free to all secondary schools in Wales. PDF versions of the posters can also be downloaded freely from the CILT Cymru website.

They can be used to help learners make explicit links between the MFL, Welsh and English and gain a greater understanding of the way languages work and aim to provide an attractive focus for triple literacy learning for Welsh, English and MFL departments. As outlined in the Welsh Assembly guidance document 'Making the Link': Language Learning 5-14 (2003), they support an integrated and transparent approach to language teaching and learning and a whole school approach to developing literacy.

Free literacy conference for language teachers

**Languages Wales 2011 - Making the Link: literacy across languages**, CILT Cymru's seventh annual conference will explore the theme of literacy and its development across languages. In line with the Welsh Assembly Government's key priority, workshops will seek to explore how the learning of other languages supports the development of literacy in English and Welsh and how linking languages can improve literacy skills across the curriculum.

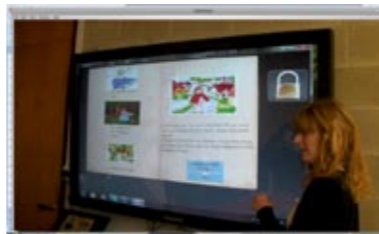
The conference will be free and will be of interest to teachers of MFL, Welsh and English. The conference will be held at WJEC in Cardiff on July 1st. For full details, please keep an eye on our website: [www.ciltcymru.org.uk](http://www.ciltcymru.org.uk)

Leighton Andrews, the Welsh Assembly Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning has been quoted as saying **"Raising literacy levels ... in Wales is one of my key objectives."** So how can MFL, English and Welsh teachers work together to address this national initiative?

This is how one school is developing innovative approaches to improving literacy across languages.

Languages United at Croesyceiliog School

This academic year, teachers from the English, Welsh and MFL departments at Croesyceiliog School, Cwmbran have got together to form a study group whose aim is to identify commonalities between their subjects,



Developing literacy through ICT and storytelling

to create shared resources and to trial shared teaching projects with the intention of improving pupil literacy. Pupil planners now contain a shared spelling and reading record, a spelling strategies document and vocabulary sheets designed to encourage pupils to make links between the languages. These are also displayed in all language classrooms. A range of grammar focused lesson starters and activities for use in all languages have also been developed.

Rebecca Kent (MFL) and Stacey Mahoney (English) have gone on to create and trial a shared story telling project for KS3 pupils. This project has the added challenge of being ICT based and involves pupils experimenting with new touch screen software. The aim is to promote independent learning and each 'on line' module contains ICT tutorials. Students were asked to re-tell well known stories in their own words and then studied techniques of story writing such as characterization and plot through the medium of French and English.

Further innovative resources and strategies promoting literacy across languages will be developed in line with the Welsh Assembly's drive to improve standards of literacy in general.

Supporting and sharing innovative approaches

CILT Cymru has supported schools in the past to develop action research projects which develop Triple Literacy in line with Welsh Assembly guidance. More information, case studies and resources can be found on our website. For further support and to discuss how you can develop this initiative within your school, contact Nia Gwyn Jones, [nia.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:nia.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk).

CILT Cymru INSET & events calendar

Please go to the Training and Events pages on the CILT Cymru website for further details of all courses: <http://www.ciltcymru.org.uk/english/events.htm>

20 June 2011	Journée Française – French Course for A level teachers (South Wales - location to be confirmed)	SC201	£110
24 June 2011	Journée Française – French Course for A level teachers (North Wales - location to be confirmed)	SC202	£110
05 July 2011	German Day (Deutschlehrertag) with the Goethe Institut (North Wales – location to be confirmed)	SC203	£110
05 July 2011	German Day (Deutschlehrertag) with the Goethe Institut (South Wales – location to be confirmed)	SC204	£110



Issue 4, summer 2011

It has been a busy time for the Routes into languages Cymru team, as you'll appreciate after reading this newsletter!

On a broader front, we welcome the news that the Routes project in England is to receive additional funding from HEFCE, and we are also backing a UK-wide campaign for languages called 'Speak to the Future', which should help to raise the profile of MFL amongst UK governments and policy-makers.

At a recent event at the British Academy called 'Language matters more and more' (attended by some Routes Cymru partner HEIs) it was encouraging to hear words of support for languages from the Rt Hon David Willetts in his capacity as Minister for Universities and Science in England. Baroness Jean Coussins (Chair of the all-party Parliamentary Group for Modern Languages) called for a 'national recovery programme' for languages, and there were stirring speeches of support from Professor Michael Worton and British Academy Chief Executive Dr Robin Jackson.

Our work on the Routes Cymru project may be more prosaic, but it is equally vital as part of the campaign to improve the status of MFL in our educational establishments, within the business sector and in society as a whole.

Ceri James, Director, Routes into Languages Cymru



Bobby Singh gives a taste of Bhangra and Bollywood Dancing

ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES Cymru

Wales, Europe and the World

700 pupils from around the country learn about Wales's European and global links.



Pupils from Glynderw High School try their hand at Chinese Calligraphy

Routes into Languages Cymru held the annual conferences, 'Wales, Europe and the World' in Cardiff and Wrexham and both were a great success.

On 8th February, young people from across South Wales congregated in Cardiff City Hall for a day of workshops, speeches and information gathering. With thanks to sponsorship from Cardiff Council and contributions from other partners, Routes Cymru were able to deliver a day that offered a variety of opportunities to practise language skills, to learn about studying, working and volunteering abroad, to discover new cultures and to think about future careers.

This year the Cardiff and Vale Music Service formed a band named, der HAUSBAND, who performed a song in French, German, Spanish and English as lunchtime entertainment. Pupils, students, teachers and staff all enjoyed this additional activity.

The event in Wrexham, held at Glyndŵr University on 18th March, fitted into the programme of Wrexham's year of culture and we are grateful to our partners at Glyndŵr University and the Europe Direct Centres in Wrexham and Llangollen. The

day followed a similar pattern to the Cardiff event and all delegates thoroughly enjoyed visiting the exhibition and attending the workshops.

This year is the European Year of Volunteering which offered us the opportunity to include special workshops on both programmes specifically looking at this topic. CILT Cymru delivered sessions for older and younger pupils alike showing how to use their French language skills in a volunteering setting, using the context of the recent earthquake in Haiti. UNA Exchange brought along some volunteers currently involved in the Youth in Action programme to speak about their experiences and in Cardiff speakers from the Voluntary Community Service and the Wales for Africa teams spoke about opportunities in the local area and further afield.

These annual conferences are growing each year and we would like to thank all of our partners for their kind contributions that help us to spread the word about the importance of Wales's European and global links and to show young people how speaking another language can enable them to make the most of experiences at home and abroad.

## Student Language Ambassadors a big hit

'Massive cool' was the response to a recent visit by student language ambassadors (SLAs) to one school in north Wales. Indeed, the SLAs have been very busy during the last two months visiting schools across the area from Anglesey to Wrexham and Flintshire. Many of the visits, although not all, involved presentations and talks for Year 9 pupils who were about to go through the GCSE options process. Visits have also included talks for pupils in KS4 and KS5, and a school careers' evening for parents.

The SLAs have talked about the overall benefits of learning another language, possible career paths, celebrities with language skills, and most particularly about their personal experiences as language students. Pupils have responded extremely well to the visits, have been

keen to ask questions, and have been delighted to receive some of the Routes into Languages Cymru 'useful phrases postcards', which always go down well. One visit involved a joint presentation by an SLA and one of the Erasmus students who is currently working as a foreign language assistant.

Another such visit is planned for later this term, and it is hoped that this cooperation can be built upon in future. SLAs are also available to offer advice about studying languages at university, oral revision sessions, and language taster sessions. If you would like an SLA from North / Mid Wales to visit your school, please contact Sian Beidas at [s.b.beidas@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:s.b.beidas@bangor.ac.uk) or in South Wales contact Rhian Jones at [rhian.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk](mailto:rhian.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk).

## National Spelling Bee Competition

The National Spelling Bee is due to take place in Cardiff in July. Year 7 pupils from around the country will come together to compete for the titles of National Spelling Bee Champion in French, Spanish, German and Welsh 2nd Language. Look out for our feature in the next newsletter which will give details of our 2011 Champions.



*Pupils are as busy as bees preparing for the National Final*

## Get Creative!

### Routes Cymru launches a Poetry Competition for A Level students

In May 2011, Cardiff will join other cities in Europe to celebrate the TRANSEUROPA FESTIVAL. A variety of activities suitable for all ages will be taking place in Chapter Arts Centre. As well as showing our support at this festival with an information stand, we are keen to get young people involved. We have therefore launched a poetry competition for A Level students. Following the festival's theme of Sustainability, we have invited students currently studying for AS and A Levels in French, German, Spanish and Italian to write a poem. The entries will be judged by CILT Cymru staff and the author of the winning poem will have the opportunity to read their poem at the festival in Cardiff.

## News from across the border

The Routes into Languages programme in England has been awarded continuation funding, from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, to allow activities and partnership to continue until July 2012. This will co-incide with the Wales programme and we will all continue to benefit from shared expertise and partnership working on both sides of the border.

As the university sector adapts to changes in funding the Routes programme

continues to fly the flag for languages in a time of uncertainty. Jobs with languages continue to be sought and advertised; our future is global and we hear from employers that languages can play a large part in successful recruitment.

It is excellent to work with Routes Cymru and to see how their work is developing. We look forward to exciting times ahead in partnership.

Heather McGuinness, Programme Manager - Routes into Languages

## Forthcoming events

### Transeuropa Festival

- Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff
- 7 May 2011

### Networking evening for teachers

- Swansea University
- 11 May 2011

### National Urdd Eisteddfod

- Swansea
- 30 May – 4 June 2011

### Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod

- Llangollen
- 4 – 10 July 2011

### National Spelling Bee Final

- 13 July 2011

Further information about these events and details on how to register can be found on our website [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru)