

## Gathering speed, building momentum

The Routes into Languages teams are currently turning a terrific idea into an effective programme of action

We have identified an important part of what needs doing to address this country's language deficits. Our aim now is to make a real difference by increasing the take-up of languages among our young people and enabling them to make a stronger contribution to social and economic life. It is now well recognised that languages are a strategically important subject: our aim is to make them less vulnerable and more able to play their strategic role.

Over the last year or so, Routes has been transformed from a small project group into a bustling network of activities that stretch the length and breadth of England, and beyond. The process of establishing regional consortia and national networks has in itself generated ideas, enthusiasm and a genuine spirit of cooperation between institutions and across sectors.

The partnership of the HE Academy Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area studies (LLAS) and CILT, the National Centre for Languages provides a firm basis of organisation and expertise to ensure that all parts of the programme are able to benefit from each other. They are working under the broad guidance of a Steering committee that brings together the main funding and stake-holding bodies.

Each of the nine English regions now has a consortium of universities, colleges and schools, working together on both well-trying and innovative schemes to raise the languages capacity of their region. Working with existing initiatives like the AimHigher programme and the Comenius network, participants are injecting energy and resources into the collective enterprise of spreading the languages message and motivating young people to take advantage of the language learning opportunities that exist.

National networks are now established for both interpreting and translation. Drawing together the leading providers, especially of postgraduate courses, they are working closely with employers and other stakeholders to equip students for an effective role in today's languages industries, whether in public, private or voluntary contexts.

The first fruits of our research projects are now beginning to emerge. The report on languages and enterprise reminds us that enterprise is 'having an idea and taking advantage of the opportunities to make it happen'. It suggests that there is a hidden enterprise curriculum in languages, which needs to be brought to the surface, and suggests a number of measures that would help to achieve this.

The research report on 'community languages' provides a detailed mapping of provision in UK universities and makes recommendations on how the languages of the wider world can be given more prominence. And we are expecting that later in the spring, the report on languages and international events will help us to understand what linguistic preparations we should be making for the Olympic Games of 2012.

As the impact of globalisation increases, our country is growing as an international, multicultural meeting place. Engaging with other languages and cultures is not just a luxury for those who want or need to travel to other countries, it is a strategic necessity for us to thrive and prosper in our own. The aim of Routes into Languages is to convert this awareness into an effective programme of action to meet our strategic need.

**Michael Kelly**  
Director of Routes into Languages

## Partnership working goes large

Never before have so many partners been involved in promoting languages in such a sustained way

The European Year of Languages in 2001 stimulated new partnerships and new efforts to promote languages. More recently, the higher education community has been ever more active in cross-sector collaboration, working with schools, colleges and other partners in new and demonstrably effective ways. CILT initiatives such as Business Language Champions, publications series Languages Work, and exciting regional initiatives have all pointed the way. The Routes into Languages programme builds on all these, invigorating them and

extending their reach, weaving them together in a coherent national programme. Over 3 years the Routes into Languages programme will enthuse many thousands of young people for learning languages. There is determination, there is expertise, there is strong support from everyone with a stake in seeing our language capability transformed – watch this space!

**Teresa Tinsley**  
Director of Communications, CILT, the National Centre for Languages

# National activities: Nine regional consortia

Across England, over 50 universities are working together to inspire our young people to study languages

## North West

The North West (Greater Manchester) Consortium, together with colleagues from CETL-SOAS and Scottish CILT, held a successful conference on Community Languages in Higher Education at Manchester Metropolitan University. Their launch will be held in early 2008.

Language Enrichment events for 800 learners across the region are currently being designed. Five events for Year 8 school children will be run between April and July 2008. This year these will include language taster sessions in our four target languages- Mandarin, Arabic, Urdu and Italian, cultural quizzes, a multi-cultural market and talks on studying languages at university. The aim is to encourage children to think about the benefits of learning a language at university, with a focus on community and lesser taught languages. Native-speaker student ambassadors will play a key role in these events, talking to children about their language and culture, as well as life at university.

CPD for community language teachers in supplementary schools is planned.

## West Midlands

West Midlands Consortium launched at Birmingham International Airport in November 2007. Keynote speaker Lorna McClelland of Aston Villa Football Club showed her support for the programme and highlighted to pupils and parents the important role of languages within the workplace and from her professional experience assisting international football players and their families.

Networks for Excellence began monitoring language progression routes in October 2007.

Keele University welcomed over 300 pupils and parents to their campus for an introduction to their dual-phase Language Taster Programme, and they plan a residential school for a hundred Year 8 students in April 2008.

Coventry University have successfully launched their Business Breakfast series. The University of Warwick language tutors visit schools in 2008. The Universities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton launch their e-mentoring projects.

Chinese New Year on 7 February 2008 is the start date for activities at Aston University, cultural themed days for Year 9 students.

## North East

The North East Consortium celebrated their success with a launch event in November 2007 at Newcastle University's gracious Hatton Gallery. This brought together under one roof primary school and secondary school teachers, head teachers, university Modern Languages lecturers, pro-vice chancellors and faculty deans, representatives of Aimhigher, Comenius, Connexions, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, Regional Language Network, cultural institutes, secondary school pupils and student ambassadors. The keynote speaker was Hugh Morgan Williams, a policy adviser and leading businessman in the North East, a governor of CILT, member of the Nuffield Languages enquiry (2000) and currently a member of Durham University Council. The surprise guest was Lord Dearing who inspired his audience with his commitment to languages and delighted them with his lively sense of humour.

A lively programme of events and activities is planned for the year ahead.

## Yorkshire and Humber

The Yorkshire and the Humber Consortium, led by the University of Hull, brings together all Higher Education Institutions, many schools and colleges, the Regional Language Network and Comenius Centre for Yorkshire and the Humber.

The intention is to ensure that every child in the region has the opportunity to learn a modern language and to gain an understanding of the relevance of intercultural understanding in the contemporary world.

Partnerships are developing as different stakeholders (young people, parents, teachers, university lecturers and employers) work together across the curriculum. The consortium plan to offer online learning schemes, a world café allowing students to practise their foreign language with native speakers, language taster sessions, workshops on cultural awareness, languages and careers events with the support of the business community (Business Language Champions Scheme). There will also be projects to integrate languages with other curriculum subjects.

North  
West

West  
Midlands

South West



Combined Universities in Cornwall

Key to consortia map:

- Lead institution
- Partner institution

Contact your local consortia:  
[www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/consortia](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/consortia)

### South West

The South West Consortium is progressing well. Questionnaires have been sent to all secondary schools asking for information about the number of students continuing with a language in KS4 and post-16. Two competitions are running in 2008, the themes are a video diary and languages for business. A Post-16 Languages day was held in Bristol in September, attended by over 200 students. Response to an offer of talks, for Years 9 and 11 on the importance of language study, have been very encouraging. The consortium has recruited student mentors to work with students in their schools.

### South East

The South East (South Central) Consortium is well underway and among the exciting activities planned for 2008 are a World of Work event, Able Linguist days, Languages on Film and a French football tournament. The consortia student mentors will be working directly with pupils both in schools and online. The consortium are very much looking forward to supporting all the language learners and teachers in their area and hope to involve as many as possible in the project. All the schools in the South East region will be contacted with further details about us and our activities in the near future.

### East Midlands

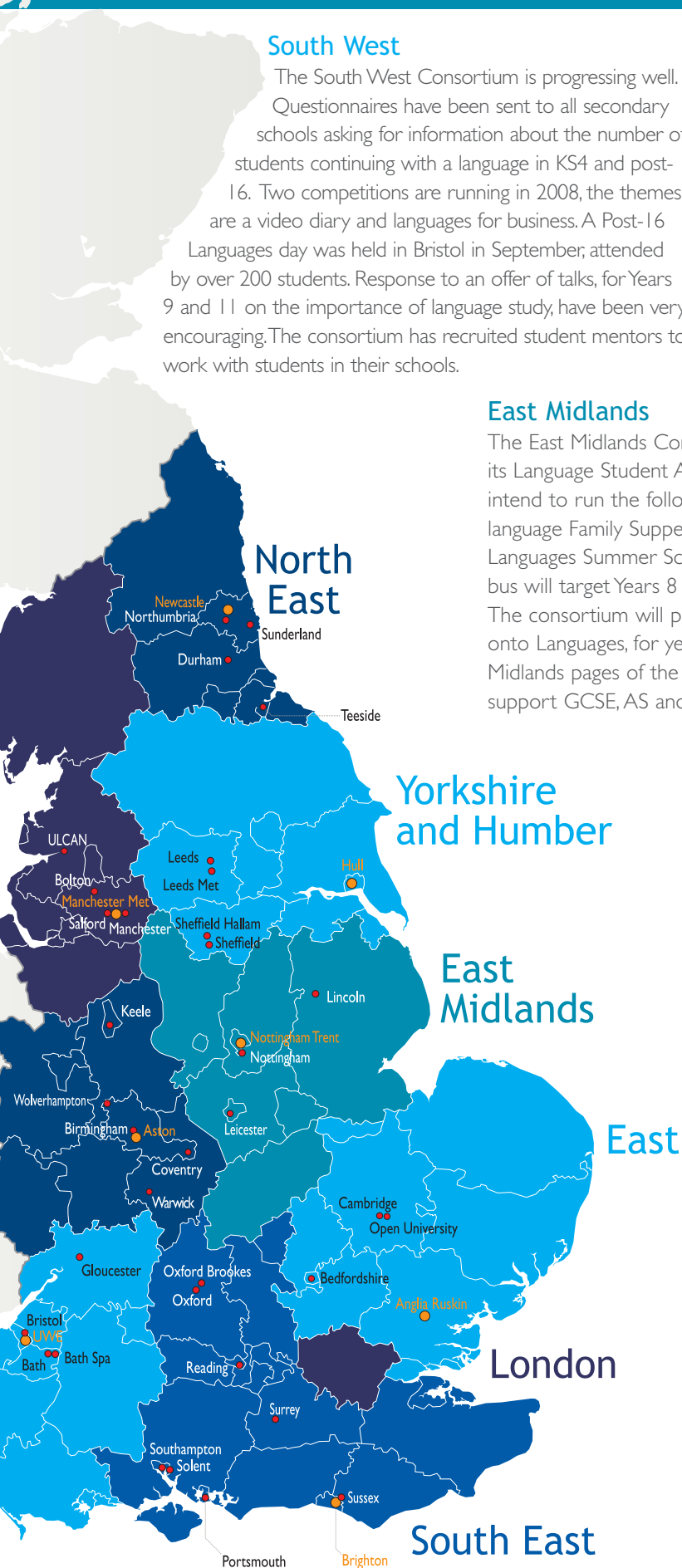
The East Midlands Consortium will be formally launched in early 2008 together with its Language Student Ambassador Scheme. Their approach is collaborative and they intend to run the following activities in the forthcoming year; Four annual, themed language Family Suppers, a two day summer residential course (East Midlands Regional Languages Summer School) for year 12 students, a languages road show hosted on a bus will target Years 8 and 9 school children in rural areas, visiting ten schools per year. The consortium will provide a programme of online language learning support, Log onto Languages, for year 9 and 10 students opting to study languages. The East Midlands pages of the Routes website will offer web-based resources and materials to support GCSE, AS and A level language learners.

### East

The East of England Consortium launched in January 2008 at Anglia Ruskin University where the hosts and Vice Chancellor Mike Thorne were joined by partners University of Cambridge, The Open University and University of Bedfordshire, together with regional collaborators, students and schoolchildren. The Language Ambassadors scheme begins in February 2008, with undergraduates visiting schools in the Cambridge area, together with student shadowing at Anglia Ruskin and Cambridge Universities. The Language Gym at Anglia Ruskin offers local people membership to get linguistically fit. Luton is to host the Language-Learning Partnership which works to bring students and micro businesses together. Teacher training for the Cambridge Junior CULP programme begins, targeting provision for 200 pupils in eight local schools by the end of the year.

### London

The Greater London Consortium is a collaboration of over 11 universities and organisations working together to raise awareness, build capacity and achieve a sustainable programme of activities. Led by the School of Oriental and African Studies and London Metropolitan University, the consortiums' exciting programme of activities for 2008 include World Languages Day events, masterclasses, languages GCSE, AS and A Level preparation sessions and language taster days. The consortium seeks to build on the growing excitement generated across London in the build up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to raise the importance of languages.



## Forthcoming events

### Routes into Languages launch

5th February, 2008

London Living Room

The official launch of the programme; a celebration with all the stakeholders assembled together with embassy representatives and languages dignitaries.

### Language World

11-12th April, 2008

University of Oxford

The annual conference and exhibition of the Association for Language Learning (ALL); the professional association for language teachers.

### Languages in higher education conference: Transitions and connections

8-9th July, 2008

University of York

The fourth biennial conference for languages in higher education, jointly organised by CILT, the National Centre for Languages and the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies.

## Keep in touch

#### Online:

[www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk)

#### Join our mailing list:

[www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/maillinglist](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/maillinglist)

#### By post:

Routes into Languages  
University of Southampton  
Avenue Campus  
Highfield  
Southampton, SO17 1BJ

email: [routes@soton.ac.uk](mailto:routes@soton.ac.uk)

phone: 023 8059 9413

fax: 023 8059 4815

## National networks

### National Network for Interpreting

[www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk](http://www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk)

The National Network for Interpreting brings together the Universities of Leeds (Lead institution), Bath, Salford and Westminster to inspire young people to learn languages and give them an insight into what it is like to train and work as an interpreter.

The network will run special events (taster sessions, simulated conferences, master classes and career talks) and produce a variety of promotional and pedagogical material reflecting the diversity of interpreters' experiences. This will be found on the network's website ([www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk](http://www.nationalnetworkforinterpreting.ac.uk)), containing a wealth of background information, interactive exercises and quizzes for students, tips for teachers, and links to relevant articles, video clips and websites. The consortiums aim is to provide an interesting, fun and informative resource for our target audience, comprising undergraduate language students and sixth form pupils as well as language teachers and trainers.

### National Network for Translation

[www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/translation)

The National Network for Translation is a partnership between the Universities of Aston, Bath, Heriot Watt, Portsmouth, Salford (lead institution) and Westminster. Their mission is three-fold: promoting translation as a challenging and attractive profession, promoting the teaching and training in translation from a wider range of languages, and improving the synergy between academia and the profession. The Network is setting up a programme of career talks with input from translation graduates, high profile professionals and employers to promote the work of translators and the diversity of translation and translation-related work. A number of school visits will be taking place, together with master classes and day events (planned for spring 2008). The Network's partners are drafting module templates to be used for the training of translators from non Western European languages.

## Research projects

### Routes into Languages has funded three research projects

Reports will be published in 2008, and discussed at special events. Interim events and findings have been of great interest, and routes await their recommendations and conclusions with excitement. All research reports will be available to download from the Routes website: [www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/research](http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/research)

**Languages and Enterprise** is led by the University of Leeds, based in the White Rose Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning of Enterprise. The lead investigator is Professor Pauline Kneale. The team have audited the enterprise skills of students, examined the context and constraints they found, and have made recommendations of models of good practice.

The **Community Languages** research is run by the school of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in partnership with the University of Stirling. Professor Itesh Sachdev and Joanna McPake are co-lead investigators. The project maps current community languages provision across England and recommends how the interface between higher education, further education and school could be developed.

The **Languages and International Events** research project is led by the University of Westminster by Professor Debra Kelly and her team. They aim to show how the national role of higher education languages might act as a motor of economic and civic regeneration through the planning, delivery and inheritance of major international events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in the UK and worldwide. The final report is due in summer 2008.