



PRESS RELEASE

MULTI-LINGUAL SPELLERS *BUZZING* TO COMPETE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Event: | Routes into Languages Cymru Spelling Bee Competition – Regional Finals |
| Where: | South Wales – Ysgol Bryngwyn, Dafen, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA14 8RP North Wales – Venue Cymru, The Promenade, Llandudno LL30 1BB |
| When: | South Wales – Tuesday, 23 April 2013 North Wales – Friday, 26 April 2013 |
| Contact: | Ellie Jones, Routes into Languages Cymru, 029 2026 5410 |

The time of year has come around again when the country's super spellers come together at two Regional Finals to compete for a place in the Routes into Languages Cymru National Year 7 Spelling Bee Competition.

This is the third year that the competition has been held in Wales and each year the number of competitors keeps growing. Next week, 163 Year 7 pupils are expected to take part across four competitions: French; German; Spanish and Welsh 2nd Language. These multi-lingual spellers are the champions from their schools, having succeeded in class and school competitions earlier in the year. They have been learning vocabulary since September and next week will be prepared to spell from a bank of 150 words.

The South Wales Regional Final is being hosted by Ysgol Bryngwyn, Llanelli on Tuesday, 23 April and then three days later the North Wales Regional Final will take place in Venue Cymru, Llandudno.

Ceri James, Director of CILT Cymru, Routes into Languages Cymru and Spelling Bee Judge said "We are delighted at the enthusiasm that surrounds this competition. Each year we see a group of fantastic young linguists demonstrating impeccable accuracy in a language that they may have only been learning for a few months and I am sure that this year will be no different. I hope that this positive experience of learning languages during the first year at secondary school will motivate them to continue with their languages in the future. All that take part in these Regional Finals have achieved so much already by getting this far and I'd like to wish them all the best of luck."

As well as being the proud owners of the regional prizes, the top four from each language in each region will secure a place in the National Final which will take place in July.

These two events promise to be surrounded by a *buzz* of excitement and nerves and will showcase the excellent linguistic skills of young people in Wales.

ENDS

Press enquiries to: Ellie Jones, Routes Cymru Project Manager, email: ellie.jones@ciltcymru.org.uk, tel: 029 2026 5410 / 07815 822039.

Interviews with Ceri James, Director of Routes Cymru are available on request from Ellie Jones.

Routes into Languages Cymru website: www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/cymru

Notes for editors:

1. The South Wales Regional Final will take place at Ysgol Bryngwyn, Llanelli on Tuesday, 23 April 2013, 14:15 – 18:30.
2. The North Wales Regional Final will take place at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on Friday, 26 April 2013, 09:00 – 14:00.
3. The concept of a multi-lingual Spelling Bee was devised by Jane Driver, a languages teacher in Cambridgeshire. Year 7 pupils are also competing in a National Competition in England which is running in parallel to the competition in Wales.
4. The Routes into Languages programme was developed by three organisations working in partnership: the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML), the HE Academy Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS) and CILT, the National Centre for Languages. The Routes into Languages programme is co-ordinated by a team at the University of Southampton, directed by Professor Michael Kelly. <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk>
5. Routes into Languages Cymru is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).
6. Led by CILT Cymru in partnership with 11 universities across Wales, the specific aim of the Routes into Languages Cymru project is to increase the take up of languages from school to university. It encourages young people to have a positive attitude towards their language learning and promotes languages as an essential skill.
7. CILT Cymru is funded by the Welsh Government and is managed by WJEC.