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Welcome from Irene Wilkie, Consortium Director



Welcome to the second newsletter of the Routes into Languages SW consortium. What an action packed year we have had so far! We have visited over 80 schools to give presentations to Yr 8, 9, 10 and 11 on 'Why Study Languages?' And we have also responded to as many requests as possible to support events running in schools including languages days, business enterprise events, careers evenings, competitions, etc. Partner HEIs have hosted events in their institutions such as masterclasses, taster days, GCSE revision days and

AimHigher days. Plans are underway for many more over the next few months.

We are especially proud of the DVD and booklet we have produced on 'Languages at Work in the South West' (read more about it on page 2). If your school hasn't yet received a copy, please e-mail us and we will send you one. If you want to sample before you request it, it is being videostreamed on the Routes into Languages website: <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/resources.html>

We have 34 undergraduate student ambassadors and tutors working in schools, supporting the teaching of French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, and helping out with all our events. The school students really enjoy interacting with young people not much older than themselves who have chosen to study languages. They are excellent role models and we are very pleased with how this aspect of our project has expanded this year.



A new venture for us this year has been embarking on an e-mentoring programme. We are still in the early stages with this, but we have already enrolled some pupils from the Isles of Scilly on the programme and are about to include some Dorset schools.

We have 2 competitions running – a Pop Video competition and a Business Enterprise one. The closing date is May, so there is still time to enter. Details can be found on the website (read more on page 2).

So you see.... it really has been action packed.

Irene Wilkie

Routes into Languages SW Consortium Director

Winner of Languages for Business Competition

The Routes into Languages "Languages for Business Competition 2008" was won by Hele's School, Plympton, which submitted a high-quality Brittany Ferries project, looking at the Leisure and Tourism and Languages aspects of the Brittany Ferries operation. Their study visit took place over two days, including visits to the Brittany Ferries offices in Plymouth where they learned how languages are used on a daily basis. The students also travelled to Roscoff to the company headquarters where a tour of the premises, interviews with employees and a business lunch were all conducted in French. They also, as part of their GCSE coursework, wrote job applications in French for vacancies with Brittany Ferries. The School was awarded a Certificate and a cheque for £100.



Routes into Languages SW is running **two competitions in 2009**.

Do not miss your chance! (Please see below for details about the competitions).

**Prize Giving at Hele's School ,
30th June 2008**



Enter our competitions to win prizes!

For the second year we are running **Languages for Business Competition** inviting schools/colleges to submit a description of a project which they have undertaken in the academic year 2008 – 2009 which involves links with either a business abroad, or a business in this country which uses languages. The closing date for entries is **Friday 29th May 2009**.

To find out more about this competition go to: <http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/29-may-09.html>

Do you think you could write a song or rap in a foreign language? Do you have the IT skills to make a video to accompany your song? If so... this competition is for you. To enter **Pop Video Competition**, submit a short video, animated if you prefer, to accompany a song or rap which you have composed in a foreign language. The closing date for entries is **Friday 22nd May**.

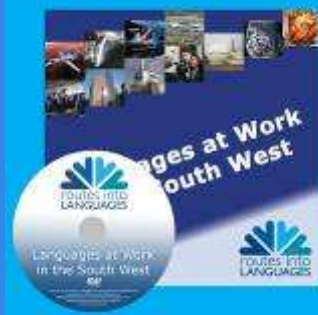
To find out more about this competition go to:

<http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events/22-may-09.html>

Languages at Work in the South West

This DVD looks at a wide range of businesses in the South West that use languages at a variety of levels. What they all have in common is an understanding of the importance of foreign languages to their businesses and the value they place on foreign language skills in their employees. From financial giant KPMG to Fish and Fritz, a fish restaurant in Weymouth, employees who speak foreign languages with varying degrees of fluency are valued. You will see that we are not just focussing on university language graduates or other experts with high degrees of fluency - important as that is to some of the companies featured here - but also on basic conversational abilities in foreign languages that are of benefit in the working world. To request a copy, please e-mail:

Irena.Holdsworth@uwe.ac.uk



And here is a flavour of what we have been doing..

Speaking Challenge



Year 11 students from John Bentley School in Calne, Wiltshire, and St Mary's Independent School for Girls in Calne got together to show off their language skills in a Speaking Challenge.

Contestants gave a presentation in French, German or Spanish and then answered questions about their presentation. The contest was the first time the two schools had got together to arrange a joint venture and part of the aim was to encourage understanding and dialogue between these two very different schools. The competition was judged by Irene Wilkie who also presented the cups to the winning contestants.



Benefits of Studying Modern Languages Conference

This event offered 220 Yr 10 students insight into the career opportunities that become available to people with strength in languages. At the beginning of the day all students received half-hour



presentations from CENTRAX and CILT and then attended workshops run by various organisations and businesses, such as Goethe Institute, Ashford's, Reuters, Flybe, etc. The students were also offered language taster sessions in Mandarin, Arabic and

Russian.

Languages and Science Taster Day

Year 8 pupils from Bodmin Community College had a combined Languages and Science Taster Day. The languages session started with an introduction from Marie-Marthe Gervais-le Garff on why study languages and how studying languages can enhance your employability. The team assisted by some of our language students then set the pupils a challenge to design a unique laptop and present their product, in French, to a Dragon's Den. Winners and runners up received prizes for their efforts.



European Day of Languages



Sixth Form pupils and staff of five schools from Devon and Cornwall had an exciting day to celebrate the European Day of Languages comprising a mix of formal events and informal gatherings. The prize for the European Day of Languages quiz was won by a pupil from Stoke Damerel CC.

AimHigher Modern Foreign Languages Day

60 Year 8 pupils from four schools in Bristol attended Modern Foreign Languages Day organised jointly by Routes into Languages and AimHigher. The day started with an introduction from Irene Wilkie on why study languages followed by workshops in French, German, Spanish and Catalan. A team of language ambassadors worked alongside the staff to inspire pupils to continue with the study of languages.



Japanese Masterclass



Students from schools in Plymouth enjoyed an exciting introduction to Japanese languages and culture!

'Why Study Languages?' Presentations at Schools

Visits to schools to talk to Year 9 & Year 11 students about the importance of continuing with the study of languages are carried out by five consortium universities across the South West. The presentations include video clips of people who have discovered the importance of languages in the world of work and also the views of some students themselves who see the value of language study.

Forthcoming Events

Wed 13 May 2009, 9 am – 3 pm

French and Spanish Languages Day (Year 9)

University of Plymouth

Wed 20 May 2009, 9 am – 3 pm

German and French Languages Day (Year 10)

University of Plymouth

Wed 24 June 2009, 9 am – 3 pm

Languages Day (Year 12)

University of Bath

Thu 25 June 2009, 11 am - 3 pm

The Benefits of Studying Modern Foreign Languages Conference (Year 10)

University of Exeter

Thu 25 June 2009, 9 am - 3 pm

Languages Day (Year 12)

University of the West of England

20, 21 and 22 July 2009, 10 am – 3 pm

Intensive Course (Year 11)

University of the West of England

Quote from school:

Thank you for your brilliant talks to our Year 9's. There was definitely a buzz about "careers with languages" around the place for quite some time and I am sure it will have an impact on our options numbers. It is just so helpful to open their eyes to all the opportunities for them!

**Jill Royall, Mangotsfield School,
Bristol**

***For full details of these and other events, please visit our website:
<http://www.routesintolanguages.ac.uk/southwest/events.html>***

***To participate in our events, please fill in an online registration form or
contact the relevant regional coordinator (see contact details below).***

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