

27/01/2017, LANGS Meeting minutes, Mercure Hotel, Ingram Street, Glasgow

- Ann Robertson, Chair, **welcomed** everyone and wished them a Happy New Year of the (fire) Rooster.
- Attendance and apologies attached.
- New members introduced.
- Retiring members recognised and thanked.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Reviewed and accepted as a correct record.
- Matters Arising: Updates from Louise Glen, Education Scotland, to follow.

'Just a Minute': updates from various organisations.

2. Ann Robertson, LANGS Chair:

- A focus group, to look at the chairing of the LANGS group, met 16/11/2016, and decided on joint chairing by Ann and Robert Dalzell, North Lanarkshire, pending nominations for a new chair, the election process for which will commence shortly.

3. Toria Fraser, Scottish Government:

- No funding announcement yet, but 'very soon'.
- LA survey request coming soon.
- Implementation plan, agreed by SIG, coming out shortly. SALT et al have signed up to these plans for sustainable implementation.

4. Louise Glen, Education Scotland:

- Benchmarks are with Mr Swinney. Wider consultation with other stakeholders (unions, DFM) will come out on National Improvement Hub (NIH) in permanent form, but ES will take feedback on them. Leaked benchmarks have been described by primaries as 'comforting'.
- Website: old one closed end Nov. NIH known to have errors (and a lot of language content missing...e-books etc just been re-added and more coming daily).
- Scottish Education Awards - primary only - looking for as many entries as possible.

5. Fan Lin, CISS:

- Much Chinese New Year promotion activity.
- Promotion of Mandarin as L3. Jude McKerrecher and Meryl James travelling round schools to support.
- New resources coming on website in next couple of weeks.
- 13.30-14.15 presentation at Languages Live Show in March.
- New CLPL menu online to support Hanban teachers and mentors.

6. Fhiona Mackay, SCILT:

- TTT going ahead, but likely to be rebranded. What about timing? Aimed for first week of summer holidays. Could have it in last week of June (w/c 26/06) or w/c 03/07 - which would be best? Any representations to Clare Carroll, please.

7. Madeleine Beveridge, SEET:

- Euroquiz heats started; 08/05 final in Scottish Parliament.

8. Lynsey Pilcher, British Council:

- Applications to host FLAs will open on 08/02. Apply before 31/03 if possible, but deadline is actually 31/05.
- Lynsey Pilcher moving on to a post at University of Edinburgh, thanked by LANGS Chair.

9. Marion Spöring, UCMLS:

- Thanks to all who have participated in meetings.
- Business Brunches still running: next one is in Edinburgh next Monday.
- Collaborative hubs working well. 01/02 in Aberdeen; then in Glasgow.
- Main upcoming event is 10/03/2017 launch, at Glasgow City Chambers.
- Please complete survey (link on webpage)

10. Xabier San Isidro, Consejería de Educación:

- Joint French/German/Spanish event, based on the Common European Framework for Languages, at Dundee University, 03/06/2017.

11. Thomas Chaurin, Institut Français:

- Send in local champions for Concours de la Francophonie.
- Major stand etc, including TV5 training on how to use their resources, planned for Languages Live Show.
- Cordial invitation to Common European Frame of Reference for Languages Event at Dundee on 03/06.
- 6 grants offered for one week course on France first week of August; aimed at DOs – Institut Français can provide further details.

12. Jenny Carr, Scotland Russia forum:

- Free Russian language tasters available; being promoted at Language Live Show.
- Forum is in discussions with Russian Dept at Glasgow Uni; thinking about other Slavonic languages.

13. Zosia Fraser, Polish Education Committee:

- Negotiations afoot with Scottish Government, Education Scot and GTCS, trying to introduce Polish recognised qualifications N4/5/Higher/AH.

14. Sabine Schlüter, Goethe Institut:

- Goethe Institut is running German Smart Choice Launch Event at Chryston HS, on 02/03/2017.

15. Le Français En Ecosse, (Richard Tallaron in absentia):

- Online Spanish course now launched. 50 teachers from D&G already signed up; others too.

16. Presentation: Reflections on Transition. Elizabeth Clingan (S Lanarkshire) and Claire Carroll (SCILT):

- Initial discussions as to what transition would look like.
- Seed idea from **Dunbar Reads** led to project: Lanark Lives Languages. (See PP).
- Involved the wider community, encouraging pupils and others to 'Pass on the pride' in languages.
- Encouraging parents to come in to school and learn languages, specifically.
- Making use of people, not necessarily linguists, who use languages as part of their work. Not necessarily fluent.
- Treasure Hunts, movie nights
- Pack of key phrases for local businesses, in several languages displayed in shop windows: 'Pull'/'Push'/'Like us on Facebook', 'Not While the Train is Standing in a Station' etc.
- P6/7 and S6 language ambassadors. Initially, key factor was that pupils could walk (within Lanark)... But it spread out to other, more rural, primaries. Elizabeth Clingan has all the signs for those who want them.
- St John Ogilvie High School, Hamilton: agreed 'syllabus', regularly reviewed; challenges to primaries; winners go to Sec school for ceremonies. Stonelaw Learning Community, Rutherglen similar projects. "They [primary and secondary colleagues] have become friends" -vs- the once heard view, 'if you were any good, you'd be teaching in secondary'... Key thing that had been missing, they realised, was **relationship** between primary and secondary teachers. 'Get them in the room'!!!
- 'Identify a co-ordinator; joint PL activities; invitations; e twinning, Glow groups etc.
- Primary and Secondary Languages networks have been amalgamated. Events open to all. *Keeping them there*: involve pupils; show impact; share success; link to QIs, GTCS standards; fun!
- Is *transition* actually any longer a thing? Shouldn't it be continuity or progression?
- Each Primary School received £1k from 1+2 fund to 'get people in the room' (nothing else), ring fenced. *Pupils* were the ones that came up with the creative ideas.
- Aberdeenshire have done something similar. '*Sneaky*' transition. Relationships, relationships.
- Importance of understanding, and working round, local gaps or inadequacies. Big thing to spend our 1+2 money on next session?
- Cluster MFL networks...Glow groups.
- 'Hooks & phrases'...*il y a, j'aime, je n'aime pas*, rather than screeds of vocab. Progression is also *context*. *du ski...du jambon...du Canada*

17. Outbreak 1: Lynne Jones, Caroline Gordon, Virginie Bradbury

- 'Tennis de mots'

18. Outbreak 2: Gillian Campbell-Thow and Maryse Payen-Roy

- 1+2 Money targeted to schools with poor MFL uptake (Glasgow)
- What's holding pupils back from uptake in senior phase? Pressing issues in order of priority:
 - Intercultural awareness
 - Independent learners
 - Linguistic diversity
 - Territory
 - Knowledge of the world of work
 - Resilience
 - International perspective
 - Linguistic competence...*which order?*
- Maryse - truth is, they're **all** important. Pupils say Schools over emphasise the academic. Would prefer more input on working as a team, punctuality, communication, budgeting. A lot of it is language for language sake.
- Languages are not an **alternative** to science, though many schools (columns) are set up that way. And can be literature heavy. *Le Silence de la Mer, Le Petit Prince* again! Something **technical** in French just as valid.
- Ability to swop languages, take more than one, two... Languages are the bus, not necessarily the destination.
- Primary: give them dictionaries and **structures**.
- Secondary: help them to access the stuff they're **interested** in; **not** European Parliament etc; nobody's interested.
- National advice to guidance teachers on importance of languages.

19. Feedback/Plenary from outbreaks:

- Robert: daughter was doing accounts with Spanish and felt at a disadvantage from those studying languages...universities who are offering language + something else must make the language relevant. Heriot Watt seems to offer good relevance.
- Marion: see SCILT/UCMLS site...some universities are addressing this. 1+2 funding has mainly gone to schools...perhaps Govt could address this; make similar funding available to FE? Get employers, pupils to recognise languages as a **vehicle**.
- Marion: so fill in the UCMLS survey; that is exactly its point.
- John Paul: Some languages done at University are at lower standard than they've done at school and that turns them off. Better communication between schools and uni.
- Robert: 22 out of 32 authorities represented; thanks also to presenters who stepped in.
- Should we go for a February meeting next time, not January? Think about it for June meeting.
- Louise: Language Show Live, 10/03 at SECC. Make sure you register!
- Fhiona: Scottish Education Awards...might be worth putting in entries for other areas with a MFL element (Secondary with business partnerships etc)
- Bilingualism Matters Fri 12/05 event. Mandy will disseminate.
- Robert: thanks for coming.
- DONM: 02/06, possibly at Dundee

[Minutes by David Kerr, Dumfries & Galloway Council]