
Below is a selected update from programmes and opportunities available through British Council. More detail on the full range of opportunities can be found at schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org

Erasmus+

The School Education Gateway (SEG) is a portal to support schools in planning Erasmus+ projects, including help with partner finding. Join the 42,000 registered users and discover the benefits, including news and events, policy updates and information on good practice. This year there are a number of webinars available to teachers including 'Entrepreneurial Education', with subtopics on citizenship, assessment and school engagement.

We want to highlight three essential tools for schools involved in Erasmus+

- a [course catalogue](#) for finding and rating staff training opportunities.
- a [mobility opportunities database](#) for finding and posting job shadowing, observation and teaching assignment opportunities

(both useful if you have or are planning Key Action 1 funding)

- a [strategic partnerships area](#), for finding and posting partnership opportunities

The School Education Gateway portal works alongside eTwinning and your eTwinning login will work on School Education Gateway. More information on the SEG can be found [here](#)

eTwinning

Applications are now open for teachers of pupils aged 3-19 across a range of subject areas to attend a fully-funded 2-3 day professional development workshop in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, France and Greece. These events are designed to facilitate new eTwinning projects through partner-finding and project planning activities. Workshop themes and subject areas are varied, spanning ICT, Maths, and sustainable development.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/etwinning/workshops/face-to-face>

Modern Language Assistants

Applications to host a language assistant for the 2018/19 academic year are now open. **Apply Now!** We encourage local authorities and schools to think creatively in how they use and allocate their MLAs to get the maximum benefit and can offer advice and guidance to individual schools, clusters and authorities. In terms of funding for MLAs, both 1+2 and PEF funding can be used to meet the costs of a classroom assistant. Get in touch at languageassistants.uk@britishcouncil.org

Here are a few ways modern language assistants can be of use to pupils in your schools.

1. A cultural resource

Language assistants can share experiences and stories of life in the country where the target language is spoken. By inviting students to compare their experience of life in the UK with that of the target-language country, modern language assistants can play a significant role in giving students an understanding of other cultures.

2. A way to help disadvantaged pupils

Modern language assistants can lead small groups or one-to-one sessions, on behalf of the teacher, with disadvantaged pupils who lack confidence with languages. For students who do not have the opportunity to go on holiday in a foreign country, a language assistant might be the first chance for them to talk to a native speaker and close an opportunity gap with more well-off peers. Use of MLAs in a primary setting or broad general education phase can be particularly impactful.

3. A source of spontaneity

The ability to speak with confidence is emphasised in the curriculum. However, opportunities for spontaneous talk in the classroom are not always available. Other than helping pupils produce, prepare and practise dialogues, modern language assistants can help students participate in more authentic exchanges. These exchanges mean that students get to use the target language for real communicative ends and build their speaking confidence in the process. At secondary level, you can also use modern language assistants for mock interviews.

4. A source of creativity

A lot of educators are talking about the WAGOLL technique (What A Good One Looks Like) of using example texts for speaking and writing that helps pupils identify good features of a text and compare it to their own. Language assistants are a fantastic source of WAGOLL material. They can write and record tailored, up-to-date listening materials and find authentic target language material (for example on YouTube) of the type that interests young people.

5. A source of continuing professional development

Contact with modern language assistants is not just valuable for students, but also for teachers and heads of department. As staff have limited opportunities for conversation in another language, language assistants can help maintain teachers' fluency and refresh their vocabulary. They can also help staff develop their knowledge and understanding of the country where the target language is spoken. Becoming a mentor for an MLA in school can also help teachers gain valuable experience in mentoring.