

Scotland's National Centre for Languages Newsletter

Our new home!

Welcome to the SCILT newsletter

Editorial

Dear colleagues

A very warm welcome to the winter 2019 edition of the SCILT newsletter – the first edition from our new home at The Ramshorn in the heart of Glasgow’s innovation district. Unsurprisingly much of our time has been taken up with the move to our new location and the organisation of a raft of celebration launch events.

The Ramshorn is an iconic part of Glasgow’s cityscape. Built on the site of the former North West church in 1826, the Ramshorn Kirk was the place of worship for many of Glasgow’s most prestigious families of the early nineteenth century. Many of the “tobacco lords” have their final resting place in the surrounding graveyard. Other notable parishioners included the great entrepreneur, industrialist and philanthropist, David Dale and Professor John Anderson, advocate of “useful learning” and founder of the University of Strathclyde.

Apparently, we also have our own resident ghost, Edie, but as yet, none of the SCILT team have had the pleasure of meeting her!

With a new building comes new personnel and we are delighted to welcome Sheena Bell, Karen Faulds and Lisa Hanna who join Lynne Jones, Paul Hare, Meryl James and Robert Burgess to complete our team of professional development officers.

As always, SCILT is available to assist the language community in any way we can; let us know how we can best support your professional learning needs. Also, if you are in the area, please feel free to drop by and try out our multi-lingual digital trail developed by the youngsters in Glasgow City schools. It will give you a fascinating insight into the history of the Ramshorn building in ten different languages!



Fhiona Mackay, Director

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Languages beyond school

At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.



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Disclaimer - SCILT’s newsletter is published twice a year and contains contributions from schools, local authorities and cultural organisations. It provides a forum for contributors to share some of the interesting work being carried out by the languages community across Scotland. SCILT, however, does not necessarily endorse or promote the practice described in these pages.

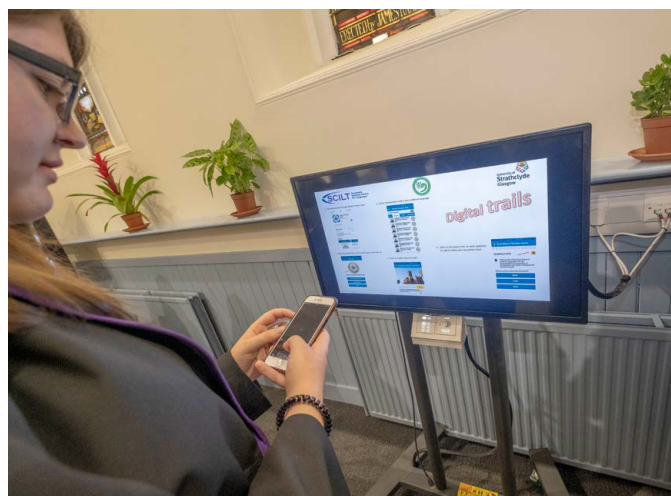
SCILT News

Digital trail

In June 2019, pupils from four Glasgow City schools worked with Global Treasure Apps and SCILT to create their own digital trail around The Ramshorn at the University of Strathclyde. Pupils from Glasgow Gaelic School, Holyrood Secondary, Shawlands Academy and St Roch's Secondary were given a sneak preview of the SCILT and CISS new premises before the doors officially opened. On a guided tour of The Ramshorn and surrounding graveyard pupils learned about the history of the building, the famous people buried there and even heard some sinister tales.

Working in pairs pupils used what they had learned to create a question for the trail in a language other than English. Pupils worked in languages they are learning at school or speak at home.

After composing their question the pupils worked in the university computer labs to upload the text, photos and clues they had collected. Class teachers, and staff and students from the University of Strathclyde supported pupils with use of the target language.



Two young people from Hillhead High School had the opportunity to interview the University of Strathclyde Principal Professor Sir Jim McDonald, who spoke about the history of the university. Glasgow Gaelic School pupils interviewed SCILT and CISS Director Fiona Mackay, and both videos feature within the digital trail.

The project allowed the young people to showcase and build on their existing linguistic and digital skills, and demonstrated the relevance of these in a real life context. The project further offered the opportunity to build links between schools and the university, and gave pupils the chance to work on a project in a university environment.

Pupils were delighted to see their work in action when they visited The Ramshorn in October, and were able to share the digital trail with a group of visiting Chinese school pupils. The Ramshorn and Graveyard digital trail is available to download from Global Treasure Apps in Arabic, English, French, Gaelic, German, Italian, Mandarin, Polish, Spanish and Urdu.

Find Global Treasure Apps on the [App store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Alice Lister, SCILT



DYW Toolkit

“Employers and schools need to develop strong two way partnerships – partnerships that deliver improvements to teaching and learning and bring real-life context into the classroom.”

- Developing the Young Workforce (Scottish Government, 2014)

In light of the above statement, SCILT and CISS have published our updated guide for schools who want to engage with business and raise the profile of languages.

The aim of the guide is to provide steps for teachers to take towards putting DYW activities in place. The revised guide includes:

- advice on running a languages promotional event
- suggestions for projects to build a partnership with a local business
- ideas to help you find a suitable business in your local area
- further reading to support DYW

The guide supports our series of six promotional videos. In these videos, learners can hear directly from a range of employers about the value of languages in the workplace. Access the DYW toolkit and accompanying videos on the [SCILT website](#).

Meryl James, SCILT



The cover of the guide features logos for SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages), CISS (Glasgow City School of International Studies), and the University of Strathclyde Glasgow. The title 'Developing Scotland's young workforce through languages' is written in large blue font. Below the title is a photograph of a woman in a black jacket smiling and talking to a group of young people in school uniforms who are looking at a tablet. A purple banner at the bottom of the photo reads 'A guide for schools'.

Latest on the 1+2 Languages Leadership Programme

Unbelievably, in July 2019 SCILT and Education Scotland welcomed the seventh (count 'em!) cohort of the 1+2 Languages Leadership Programme to a packed four-day summer school at the University of Strathclyde.

Colleagues representing schools and local authorities right across the country attended, including a number of returning participants from cohort 1. The summer school is an important opportunity for those leading languages education to engage with the latest policy, curricular guidance, research and to take advantage of great networking opportunities with other languages educators.

As always, the summer school programme was varied in terms of both content and presenters. Interactive workshops on a wide range of interdisciplinary contexts for language learning were on offer alongside seminars on the National Framework for Languages, inclusive practice, self-evaluation in modern languages and much, much more.

Sessions were led by colleagues - and some pupils - from organisations such as Bilingualism Matters at the University of Edinburgh, Dundee City Council, Education Scotland, Institut Français d'Écosse, Liberton High School in Edinburgh, North Ayrshire Council, St Ambrose High School in North Lanarkshire, St Winning's Primary School in North Ayrshire and the University of Glasgow. The sessions and the social aspect of summer school were well received by participants:

"Really enjoyed the experience and felt enthused, encouraged and that my skills were valued."

"I feel excited, passionate and full of confidence to lead on languages in my context, thanks to the 1+2 Languages Leadership summer school! I have gained a wealth of knowledge, ideas and resources that I cannot wait to put into practice."



This level of enthusiasm and commitment is sure to sustain change in languages education in settings across Scotland! In September, a group from cohort 6 achieved Professional Recognition: Leading learning in languages from the GTCS. The next steps for cohort 7 towards the same will come in spring 2020 with a recall day.

Find more information about the [1+2 Languages Leadership Programme](#).

Application details for cohort 8 will be publicised on the [SCILT weekly e-bulletin](#) in due course.

Lynne Jones, SCILT

LinguaChef final

Thirty-one young learners from across Scotland cooked up a storm on Friday 14 June 2019 at the City of Glasgow College, testing their culinary and language skills in the LinguaChef 2019 competition final.

The partnership project from SCILT and City of Glasgow College brings together languages and food, challenging primary and secondary school pupils to create an international dish from a country whose language they are learning in school, or which is spoken at home.

LinguaChef provides pupils in primary and secondary schools across Scotland with an opportunity to have fun with food and languages whilst honing other important skills such as teamwork, communication and IT.

Secondary pupils from Bellshill Academy, Brae High, Dunblane High, Garnock Community Campus and Mearns Castle spent a busy morning in the professional kitchens at the City of Glasgow College. Each team cooked a main dish and presented their two plates of food to the judges.

Pupils in the primary category, from Low Port Primary, Garnock Community Campus, Doune Primary and the Glasgow Academy, had pre-prepared their desserts and began work on their table displays, including traditional artefacts relating to the target-language country of their recipe.

The judging panel, comprising professional chefs from the City of Glasgow College and Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel and SCILT's Professional Development Officer, Angela de Britos, put the dishes to the taste test and asked pupils to speak about their recipes in the target language.



Judging proved exceptionally difficult due to the high standard and all participating schools were congratulated and commended for their achievements. After much deliberation, the judges finally named the following teams top LinguaChefs:

- Glasgow Academy - Milngavie campus (P1-P4)
- Doune Primary (P5-P7)
- Dunblane High School (Secondary)

Find out more about the winners, their recipes and photos from the event on [our website](#).

Sheila Gallacher, SCILT

Make languages your business

On Wednesday 2 October SCILT hosted 'Make languages your business', a morning event designed to let delegates hear from representatives from business and industry about the successes and challenges of developing language and intercultural skills in the workforce.

Proceedings got underway with a welcome by Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Principal of the University of Strathclyde, who noted that it was now "imperative" that graduates are equipped with the necessary skills, in particular the ability to speak other languages, to operate on a global stage. The keynote speech was delivered by Ivan McKee MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation. Mr McKee assured those present that the government is fully committed to supporting language teaching and learning as a core element in Scotland's ongoing internationalisation strategy.

The central part of the event consisted of a question and answer session chaired by John Crawford of Scottish Development International. The panellists were Dr Jonathan Downie (Integrity Languages), Andrew Gillespie (ACE Aquatec), Mark Pentleton (Radio Lingua) and Paul Sheerin (Scottish Engineering). Each provided fascinating insights into the importance of language and intercultural skills in their careers, and how the capacity to engage with clients in their native languages has benefitted their organisations.

Following a series of highly productive round-table discussions, facilitated by experts from a range of sectors, Angela De Britos and Clare Mouat, formerly Professional Development Officers at SCILT, launched the online toolkit they have created to help Scottish businesses grow their



international markets and to develop the language and intercultural skills of their staff. Next on the agenda was a plenary speech by Charandeep Singh, Deputy Chief Executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce. Mr Singh made reference to Scotland's wealth of linguistic diversity, and outlined the importance of languages to companies and organisations looking to operate internationally.

A stimulating and thought-provoking morning was brought to a close by Fhiona Mackay, Director of SCILT and CISS. After thanking the guest speakers, panellists and facilitators, Fhiona stressed the need for young people in Scotland to have continued access to Erasmus+, with the opportunities it creates by enabling people to collaborate, study and work together, while sharing ideas, knowledge and strategies across Europe. The benefits

of Erasmus+ include enhanced language and intercultural skills, as well as the cultivation of an international mindset – all critical attributes of the workforce in a progressive and successful country.

'Make languages your business' was the culmination of the first phase of a three-year Erasmus+ project, 'Generation Global: Multilingualism and Intercultural Skills for a Dual-Competency Workforce of the Future'. The project is coordinated by SCILT on behalf of the Wider Engagement Network, in partnership with the national centres for languages in Denmark and Norway. The toolkit can be accessed on the [SCILT website](#).

Dr Paul Hare, SCILT

Our new website



Primary

S1-S3

Senior Phase

Employment

Beyond School

Parents



Primary



S1-S3



Senior Phase



Employment



Beyond School



Parents

We launched our new website in August. It was the result of a year-long project that saw the team consult with practitioners and other stakeholders, through focus groups and online questionnaires.

We were pleased to receive comments such as:

- the site is very user friendly and I use it often to keep up to date
- [the site] has trustworthy resources on it and lots of important information that is easily accessible

Feedback on website content included:

- parental engagement is a very current issue and more advice on that would be so useful
- I would like to see more case studies and features about schools where languages are thriving
- I would love to see more research-based evidence of developments and a section in your website on methodology and language acquisition.

One way we have addressed feedback is through better sign-posting – for example, highlighting SLR and other research, case studies and the newsletter – and through an improved structure.

We are pleased to introduce some new features to you:

- a tailored search function, meaning you will be able to find exactly what you are looking for, quickly and easily
- the website is now compatible with mobile devices
- a new section to support practitioners in parental engagement


Since the start of the new term we have published a Case Study of the Espacios Increibles project, which includes resources, and a Toolkit to support business in growing the international profile of their organisation.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in informing these developments.


Work is still ongoing. If you would like to add your voice, please do [get in touch](#).

Sarah Macfarlane, SCILT

Featured




The Ramshorn and Graveyard
Download our digital trail!




Thinking about continuing with languages when you leave school?
Languages are important to employers! The majority of UK businesses (65%) value staff with language skills to help build relations with clients, customers and suppliers.


Languages Beyond School Survey
We're asking visitors to our Beyond School pages to provide feedback. The section aims to help students seeking language study options when they leave school.




1+2 Approach
Learn more



A 1+2 approach to Language Learning
Learn more



Career Long Professional Learning from SCILT
Learn more



Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools
Learn more

Scottish Languages Employability Award

The Scottish Languages Employability Award was launched at the LANGS event held at The Ramshorn on Friday 1 November. This new award run by SCILT and CISS aims to reward innovation by schools in promoting languages and employability together through partnerships with businesses, public bodies and third sector organisations.

The award, which is available initially at bronze, silver and gold level, has been successfully piloted by Bishopbriggs Academy, Stirling Learning Community Confucius Hub and St Mary's Primary, Bannockburn. All the schools received their certificates and were delighted with the status that their school has achieved as innovative centres for combining languages and employability.

Development of the award was led by SCILT's Gaelic Professional Development Officer, working with colleagues from schools and local authorities. It aims to have the same reach and attraction as successful schemes such as Ecoschools, by raising awareness and rewarding innovation in languages and employment in schools.

The Scottish Languages Employability Award toolkit in English and Gaelic, submission dates and further information are available on the [SCILT website](#).

Eòghan Stewart, SCILT



**SCOTTISH
LANGUAGES
EMPLOYABILITY
AWARD**

DUAIS FASTADH
CÀNAINÈAN NA H-ALBA



Teachers Learning to Teach Languages grows up

The fifth of October was an amazing day for the Teachers Learning to Teach Languages (TELT) programme. Not only did the beginners course welcome 150 Scottish teachers, a further 50 Scottish teachers started the brand new post-beginners course on the same day. In addition, a number of primary teachers from the rest of the UK also began their TELT journey.

Presented in partnership between the Open University (OU) and SCILT, this Masters level professional learning opportunity now offers progression over two years, in a choice of four languages (French, German, Mandarin and Spanish).

This year, we have gone back to our roots on the pedagogy strand. On year 1 of the programme, three previous TELT students are Associate Tutors. Each will support a group of teachers through the discussion forum, tutorials and reflections on practice across the five units that make up the course. Familiarity with the materials? Check! Understanding of the realities of the work-life-study balance? Check!

Meanwhile, the brand new year 2 course was developed collaboratively by a group comprising SCILT professional development officers and experienced primary teachers. The content and practical application tasks build on the pedagogy introduced in year 1. The themed units include outdoor learning and languages, content language integrated learning, multilingual communities and the further development of reading and writing skills.

When Deputy First Minister John Swinney met teachers, learners, OU and SCILT staff involved in the TELT programme at Bannockburn Primary School in May, he commented:

“Projects like this can empower our teachers with appropriate training so they can deliver an engaging language learning experience in schools. Initiatives like TELT ... help teachers bring languages to life by teaching pupils subjects in another language – helping support our 1+2 languages policy and making Scotland a more welcoming country.”



You can read all about the TELT experiences of Wendy and Aimee, teachers at Newtonhill Primary School in Aberdeenshire, on the [OU website](#).

Follow the [#OU_SCILT](#) hashtag on Twitter to see the latest language learning going on in classrooms across the country from both cohorts of the programme.

Keep an eye on the SCILT weekly [e-bulletin](#) for registration details for the next presentation.

Lynne Jones, SCILT

The Ramshorn: our new home

On Monday 8 July 2019, SCILT and CISS opened the doors to our beautiful new location in The Ramshorn, right in the heart of Glasgow's Merchant City.

Our new location provides us with more space to house our team; new development officers have joined us over the last couple of months. It will also enable us to host meetings, showcases and events, on-site, with all the latest technology at our fingertips.

This renovated, former church is steeped in history, and funding from Hanban and the University of Strathclyde has breathed new life into the 200-year-old building. Within easy walking distance from both Queen

Street and Central Stations in Glasgow, it will be very easy for our stakeholders and friends to visit. We look forward to welcoming you very soon.

Our new address is:

The Ramshorn
98 Ingram Street
University of Strathclyde
Glasgow
G1 1EX

All our telephone numbers remain the same.

[Visit our website](#) to find out more about this historic building.

Sarah Macfarlane, SCILT



European Day of Languages

Dalbeattie High School

At Dalbeattie High School in Dumfries and Galloway, pupils and staff organised a crossbar challenge during lunchtime to celebrate the European Day of Languages on Thursday 26 September.

The pupils are engaged in an Erasmus+ project with four other schools in France, Romania and Portugal titled '5x4ODD schools on the road to sustainable development' and are currently working on Sustainable Development Goal 3 'Health and Wellbeing'. All five European schools ran a language challenge to celebrate EDL and sport. Inclement weather on the day led to the crossbar challenge taking place in the gym rather than the outdoor pitches.

Erasmus pupils coached learners in the three languages of the project, focusing on the languages each will use on their visits to Europe – French, Romanian and Portuguese. Pupils also competed in Spanish, which is taught alongside French in the school. To win a chance to kick and hit the crossbar pupils had to say a sentence in the target language. Pupils could try to take a shot multiple times but had to use a different sentence or phrase each time. In the end, the winning language was Romanian scoring 12, Spanish came second with 11 and French and Portuguese had two strikes each, with four individual prizes awarded to pupils who succeeded in hitting the crossbar more than once. Boys in particular were

keen to join in and have a workout both in languages and football skills at the same time.

Louise Curry, Dalbeattie High School



Grange Academy

S2 pupils in Grange Academy recently celebrated the European Day of Languages by taking part in various workshops organised by the Modern Languages department and our Senior Language Ambassadors. Pupils worked in groups through a series of challenges as they reflected upon the importance of language learning in the modern world.

They were challenged to build free standing models of the Eiffel Tower using only tape and paper. They had to learn to count from 1 to 10 in Mandarin whilst doing Kung Fu.

Pupils were also tested on their knowledge of Europe in a QR code quiz and were asked to identify different flags.

One of the most popular activities was the photo booth workshop where everyone enjoyed dressing up and posing with props – including staff!

At the end of the event pupils had to write down what they saw as the benefits of language learning and their insightful comments were most impressive.

Feedback was hugely positive and in the words of one S2 pupil, "European Day of Languages was a great day. We all had fun and it was a good laugh."

Arlene Jackson, Grange Academy

Prestwick Academy

Celebrations of language and culture were in full swing last week at Prestwick Academy, as we celebrated European Day of Languages.

In modern languages, pupils participated in 25-minute lesson rotations and enjoyed tastings of Italian, German, Russian, various quizzes, and songs in different languages. Pupils had an opportunity to take selfies in our photo booth using international props. S1 pupils also debated on the importance of languages in their future and gathered opinions of parents and carers at home, making their opinions into colourful and insightful posters. S2 pupils created flags in unusual ways, the home baking was well received by staff and the art entries were very creative! Prestwick Academy staff offered fun facts about their connections to other languages and cultures, and these facts were made into a quiz for S3 pupils.

European Day of Languages was also celebrated across the whole school. All staff enjoyed a French breakfast in the staff room at break time and there was a fact filled staff quiz, the winners of which were the Geography department. At lunch, our fabulous canteen served specialities from different countries and our Modern Languages and International

Captains compiled playlists of their favourite songs in other languages to be played in the main foyer for all to enjoy.

Inspirational quotes about language learning were shared in personal support time and Prestwick Academy launched our new Erasmus+ project to pupils – Entrepreneurial Entertainers.

All teachers spoke in a different language in their classrooms (some with the help of scripts). Afterwards pupils across the school identified the teacher who made the most effort during EDL; Mr Laing in the Art department was awarded the prize for his impressive use of Polish in the classroom.

In the evening, our senior phase Spanish pupils and modern language teachers enjoyed an evening of authentic Spanish dishes at Tinto Tapas in Troon and afterwards watched a Spanish documentary together at Ayr Town Hall (tickets gifted by Ayr Film Society).

Pupils and staff of Prestwick Academy loved celebrating different cultures and languages during European Day of Languages on 26 September and are already planning more exciting events for next year!

Julie Bartholome, Prestwick Academy

St Margaret's RC Primary School

At St Margaret's Primary we decided to introduce a Languages Week into our yearly calendar, to educate both the children and teachers on the benefits of learning languages and to eradicate some of the fears associated with it.

Many teachers are reluctant to embrace new languages within the classroom because they are worried about their own subject knowledge and this is understandable. To alleviate these fears, we created an ethos where we would endeavour to learn languages together, with the teachers and pupils acquiring knowledge as we moved along.

Each class within the school chose a language that enthused the pupils and we planned to link languages with the geography and culture of a specified country. The results were fantastic and the parental input was a great help. We have so many bilingual parents that it would be foolish not to use this resource which is on our doorstep. Parents helped us by teaching both Hungarian and Lithuanian to the children and all the evidence can be found in our special vlog, created specifically for Languages Week.

Exploring the cultural aspects of our chosen countries allowed us to sample the music, food, art and traditions of places many of the children had never heard of. This fully immersed the children in the

project and the languages were an integral part of our learning. The results are a great example of Curriculum for Excellence in full flow as we have managed to cover a huge amount of Experiences and Outcomes from a variety of subjects.

View the [special vlog](#) we created for our Languages Week.

Paul Nugent, St Margaret's RC Primary School



News from local authorities

Cookery classes

Both South Ayrshire clusters were extremely busy with their cookery projects in the third and fourth terms. At Queen Margaret Academy we worked with the Home Economics department to deliver a range of Chinese cookery classes. All S2 pupils were given one period of Chinese cookery as part of the Chinese New Year celebration in February followed by a block of Chinese cookery in March. We also ran parent and child cookery classes for the Supported Learning Centre. Pupils were delighted to have their parents in to help and the parents were pleased at how capable their children were in the kitchen. It was also helpful to give everyone a reminder of basic hygiene rules in the kitchen. We cooked a variety of dishes including chicken and vegetable stir fry and dumplings. All of our menus are available in both Mandarin and English for pupils and parents.

At Gardenrose Primary we ran a block of extremely successful parent and child classes after school. The school had already identified healthy cooking and



nutrition as a key focus for the year. For one of our cookery sessions we worked with Lindsay Guidi of the Home Cook School based in Maybole, who made spring rolls with our pupils. The boxes to take away the food were superfluous as they were devoured immediately by pupils, parents and staff. Parents commented on how much they had learnt from Lindsay's explanations of safe handling and hygiene in the kitchen and requested future sessions.

Our Mandarin teachers also cooked dishes for us including a scrambled egg type dish which had green peppers as a garnish and the firm favourite of Chinese dumplings. It was really interesting to see

the various ways the chopsticks were used in cooking.

Primary 6 and 7 classes in Gardenrose also did a Mandarin-themed Chinese bake-off. Pupils designed their own cake recipes which were translated into Mandarin to give to our partner schools.

We are going to continue the cookery project because it has been so successful and had the greatest parental engagement of all our projects so far. We also intend to expand our outreach this session and work with other community groups in South Ayrshire.

Fiona Normansell, South Ayrshire

Family Fusion

Sarah Nicoll and Brian Ross from North Ayrshire's Family Learning Team, worked in partnership with Woodlands Primary and Angela Noble, 1+2 Development Officer, to create an opportunity for families to come together and celebrate a variety of mother tongues and cultures.

Families shared traditional foods and cultural heritages. Translanguaging was encouraged. This led to pupils taking ownership of their language and having a great sense of pride when teaching others, eg how to greet one another, count to 10, sing a song in Scots, Polish, Romanian, French or Spanish. Parents supported their children, built relationships with other parents and generally enjoyed a very welcoming, inclusive environment. They gained a better knowledge and understanding of life in Scotland, Spain, Poland, Romania and France through the appreciation of a shared learning experience.

The team have been invited to 'All the world is our stage' at the Scottish Parliament and look forward to the next chapter in 'Family fusion'!

Angela Noble, North Ayrshire



Going on a bear hunt

In March 2019 we were very lucky to receive funding to support our ongoing Gaelic project. The children were learning 'Going on a bear hunt' in Gaelic and the funding allowed us to purchase equipment and materials in Gaelic to further promote the story and learning.

Thanks to this funding we were able to organise a trip to the Build-A-Bear Workshop in Braehead and every child received a bear with a Gaelic voice and a Scottish outfit.

The feedback from parents has been fantastic, and they are wanting to learn the Gaelic phrases to support their child. We are continuing the project again this year with support from our Gaelic tutor Sheena McFadyen. In August many of the children moved onto Primary 1, but Sheena has offered to continue to teach P1 as well as Early Years.

Sarita Taggart, St Bridget's Early Years Class



Language Ambassadors

In 2016 a project was set up to build on the existing good relationship between teachers of modern languages in Park Mains High School and our cluster group schools. The S6 Language Ambassador project arranged for sixth year pupils to work in a primary school classroom every week, providing a role model for younger learners.

The Language Ambassadors are pupils who have achieved success in Higher French or German and some may hope to become teachers. They want to be Ambassadors because they have heard how successful the project is, and they want to share their passion with younger learners, thus inspiring future linguists.

While the Language Ambassadors are still seen as pupils at the high school, when they go to the primary school they are treated like adults by both pupils and staff alike, and have to accept the responsibilities that come with that.

Before their first visit, the Ambassadors can be worried about making mistakes in front of the younger pupils. With support from the primary school teachers, they return from their first visit fired with enthusiasm and with belief in their abilities.

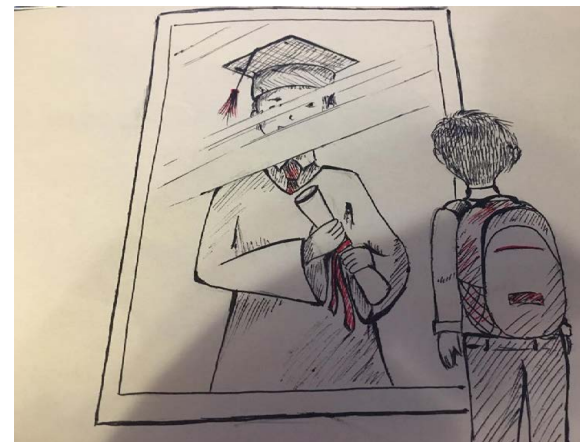
Supported by the class teacher, the S6 pupils now lead the learning, working with small groups or with the whole class.

This project fulfils the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence:

- successful learners - the Ambassadors teach younger pupils to learn
- they grow in confidence over the year
- they are aware of their responsibilities within the learning community
- they are effective contributors, learning skills for life

The success of the project is due to the collaboration and hard work of the teachers and pupils within the cluster group and the government funding provided for the 1+2 Approach.

Jeanette McKeown, Park Mains High School



Mathématiques sans Frontières

North Lanarkshire Council, in association with the University of the West of Scotland and the generous support of the Scottish Mathematical Council, organised the 'Mathématiques sans Frontières' competition across Scotland this year.

Some 79 teams from 41 schools took part in this secondary school maths competition which includes a modern language twist.

The standard of responses was very high. The winning team in S4 was the Wellington School and the S5 and overall winning school was Grange Academy with an incredible score of 100%!

The prizes were handed out during a ceremony held at the new award-

winning Lanarkshire campus of the University of the West of Scotland. This included a mini-maths challenge as well as a lecture on the myriad of careers

available to mathematically-minded individuals from Dr Alan Walker.

Robert Dalzell, North Lanarkshire Council



Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...

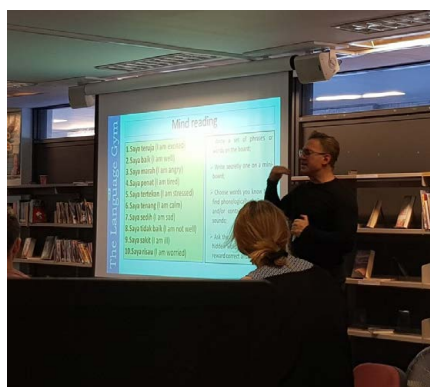
In Glasgow, as we approach 2021, we have multiple training activities to ensure our primary teachers are trained and delivering languages from P1 to P7. Various training models are tailored to primary stages and teacher abilities. We also engage with individual schools to deliver training.

Practice is everything with [#pedagogy2020](#). This session we have invested in some of the best and most informed language educators in the business. We started with the wonderfully energetic Katrina Price, who shared a whirlwind of digital and interactive language teaching methodologies in her 'Methodology Mash Up'.

With 28 years' experience as a language teacher, the world renowned language teaching and research guru, Gianfranco Conti shared recent and recognised research for language

learning covered in his book, 'Breaking the Sound Barrier'. In his 'Learning Gym' there are so many strategies to improve the teaching and learning of language through all kinds of listening and chunking!

The articulate and entertaining Paul Kavanagh, linguist, blogger and proud Scot, talked about his work on Gaelic place names among many other interesting topics!



In November we had the queen of phonics and literacy consultant, Anne Glennie sharing her thoughts and experiences on reading, writing and cognitive load in L2 language learning.

Let's hope all of these activities, together with the great language teaching and learning that happens every day, bear much fruit across the city!

Elizabeth Norton, Glasgow City

University visits to Aberdeen City secondary schools

Visits are underway to Aberdeen City secondary schools from University of Aberdeen language students.

Mainly in third year of university, the students give a presentation to secondary pupils following their year abroad. They address S2, S3 as well as senior pupils and share the benefits

of learning languages and discovering other cultures.

They engage pupils in debate exploring the use of language in daily life, leisure and the working environment.

The participating schools have given positive feedback and noticed increased pupil motivation.



[Marie-Claire Lyon, Aberdeen City](#)



News from our partners

Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning



CONNECTING CLASSROOMS through Global Learning

Understanding the big issues that shape our world has never been more important. Climate change, rising inequalities, political upheaval and how to live sustainably affect – and connect – us all, wherever we are in the world.

Supporting teachers and pupils to enhance and develop the confidence, skills, knowledge, values and attitudes they need to thrive in this challenging and increasingly interconnected world – and enable positive change – is key. This vision is at the heart of [Learning for Sustainability](#): an entitlement for all learners within Curriculum for Excellence which is embedded in the General Teaching Council of Scotland's Professional Standards for practitioners and permeates 'How good is our school?' (Fourth edition).

Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning is an initiative that supports schools across the globe to collaborate on and learn about these big issues. Funded by the British Council and the Department for International Development, it offers professional learning opportunities for practitioners; as well as generous funding and free support from local experts: bringing together teachers and pupils in a meaningful, relevant, learner-centred way to effect real change and bring learning to life.

Muthill Primary School in Perth and Kinross has participated in the Connecting Classrooms programme for several years and has built close links with the Juliet Johnston School in Ghana. Kerri Reid, Principal Teacher and International Co-ordinator at Muthill said:

"Our school's partnership work has encouraged children and families to develop informed attitudes about the world they live in and the part they can play in it. We have created exciting and relevant learning contexts where pupils see a clear purpose as they learn with, through and about one another. Pupils in both countries compare and discuss the similarities and differences between their learning experiences within a shared topic; which helps them to view issues from more than one perspective and develop 'glocal' thinking.

"Learners are encouraged to share their learning with families and community groups too, particularly when campaigning about issues. In this way, not only are pupils able to apply their learning to the real world, they also see the influence they have to bring about positive changes.

"It was a compliment to both Muthill Primary and the Juliet Johnston School to have our work commended in our HMI inspection, 'Outstanding approaches to learning about sustainability, citizenship and global issues. The school's work over the last decade in this area is making a real difference to children, the local community of Muthill and a community further afield in Ghana.'"

As Assietu Assi, a P6 Ghanaian pupil says, "We should keep working together, bringing our minds together for smart and beautiful projects."

Find out more about [Connecting Classrooms](#).

Kirsten Leask, Learning for Sustainability Scotland



Photos courtesy of Learning for Sustainability Scotland

LFEE Europe and PowerLanguage updates

Immersion Courses in France and Spain

Due to a delay in the publication of Erasmus+ KA1 results, all our summer courses have been postponed to October 2019, April and July 2020. Please check [our website](#) for upcoming dates!

GTCS accreditation

LFEE Europe have been re-accredited by GTCS for our immersion course programmes in France and Spain. Many thanks to all of you for your support over the years! This means that immersion course participants can get professional recognition from GTCS.

Ongoing Teacher Training (PLL) around Scotland

We have started training new groups of teachers in Spanish, French and German, and have organised refresher sessions all over the country. Contact your local authority if you are interested in registering on the next PLL session. Please note there is a charge for these courses.

ELAPSE (Embedding Languages Across Primary and Secondary Education)

Our ELAPSE project, funded with support from the European Commission, is progressing nicely. We have produced resources to develop primary and secondary language teachers' awareness of content and language integrated learning. Over the summer, we started to develop practical resources for primary and secondary teachers of French, German and Spanish. All will be available on the LFEE Europe website in 2020!

Annual PowerLanguage Conference - Tuesday 24 September 2019

A big thank you to all who attended our 5th Annual Conference in Edinburgh last month! Please visit our [PowerLanguage Youtube channel](#) to watch presentations from our wonderful speakers on best practice for nursery/primary and secondary language learning and teaching, including Transition ideas.

Do not hesitate to get in touch at info@lfee.net or info@powerlanguage.net should you be interested in any of the above projects, or should you want to work on something new with us!

Richard Tallaron, LFEE Europe



Pollokshields Primary



Pollokshields Primary has improved reading and writing abilities and been recognised in Parliament for the opportunities it provides to pupils.

Thanks to Erasmus+ funding, the vibrant, multi-cultural school in Glasgow worked on a literacy-based project called 'Our Lives, Our Stories' in partnership with Colegio Hernandez, a Spanish school in Valencia.

David Naughton, a Principal Teacher at the school, said "The partnership, which aimed to improve literacy attainment across the two schools, was based on the idea that our literacy curriculum should take account of the cultural background of our learners."



As part of the project, Colegio Hernandez staff and pupils visited Pollokshields Primary in May 2018 to take part in an international storytelling festival. This involved seven other Glasgow schools, where all the children took part in cultural storytelling.

David said: "This culminated in a community-led closing ceremony held in our playground, along with guest of honour, local MP Alison Thewliss. Alison then raised an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons to commend our work and mentioned our school in the House, where she cited our project for the opportunities it offers our pupils."

One of the best aspects of the project was the way that the children's families became involved. David added:

"The project has seen over 220 families across both schools creating their own family history books in an activity called 'Who do we think we are?'. The level of family engagement in this was fantastic; Pollokshields had 84% of the school roll submitting a book."

Following the Spanish school's visit to Glasgow in 2018, Pollokshields staff and pupils travelled to Spain in 2019. The second year of the project focussed on Scottish and Spanish myths and legends.

Through Erasmus+ funding, this Scottish school was able to engage pupils, families and staff in the power of storytelling, discovering their own origins and cultural history in the process.

Liz Neil, British Council

Profile – Javier Ramos Linares

My name is Javier Ramos Linares and I work for the Education Office (Consejería de Educación) of the Embassy of Spain. I am Education and MFL Adviser and my office is located at the Consulate General of Spain in Edinburgh.

What did you do before you came to Scotland?

I got my degree in Spanish Philology at the University of Granada and I have taught Spanish in different levels and contexts (secondary school, university, long-life language learning for adults). For the last seven years, I have been coordinating language programs of the Government of the Canary Islands, where I am from. I have had some other previous international experiences, in Honduras, the Philippines, Luxembourg and Belgium, where I worked for the Spanish Ministry of Education in a similar position.

What are the main aspects of your role in Scotland?

The main objective of the Consejería de Educación is the promotion of Spanish

language and culture among teachers, Hispanists, and students, as well as anyone interested in Spain and the Hispanic world. In my case, that task is focused on giving support to the teaching and learning of Spanish in the Scottish Education System.

We work with both national and local authorities to contribute to the growth of Spanish language in either primary or secondary schools, as well as in Scottish universities. Some of our activities in this field are organising professional development activities for teachers, and creating, gathering and publishing resources and material for the Spanish language classroom.

We also aim to reinforce the existing relations between the Spanish and Scottish educational communities.

What do you like most about your work?

I love the contact with teachers and the opportunity to participate in training sessions. I am very interested in identifying the needs of Spanish

language students and teachers, as I find it is the way to have a greater impact on learning. Developing ideas and resources to meet students' and teachers' expectations is my current challenge.

Who or what has been the biggest inspiration in your pursuit of languages so far?

I have always been interested in languages – both classical and modern – and in contrasting them to check how our way of thinking is connected to the languages we know. It is something we can see in a wide range of language and cultural expressions (literature, music, cinema...). The miracle of communication still impresses me: that is why I enjoy, as a teacher, facing a group of absolute beginners. It is a unique experience.

Javier Ramos Linares, Consejería de Educación



Project Polish

Project Polish was set up to help school age children in the UK get to know more about Poland, Polish people in the UK and our shared stories.

Links between Scotland and Poland go back many centuries. By the 1600s an estimated 30,000 Scots lived in Poland; Bonnie Prince Charlie was half Polish; Robert Gordon made his fortune as a merchant in Danzig (now Gdansk). By 2015 it is estimated that 86,000 Poles lived in Scotland.

Through Project Polish primary, secondary and supplementary school pupils find out more about the history of Poles in Scotland. They are encouraged to interview members of the Polish community about their experiences; they are asked what schools can do in their local areas to build community

cohesion, and what changes can be made nationally. To receive the free teaching materials please [register on the Project Polish website](#).

The Project has support from the British Embassy in Warsaw, the Polish Embassy in London, the Polish Cultural Institute, the Polish Saturday Schools and the British Council. A number of MPs have also given their support, most notably Ed Miliband who also appears in the first task of the Project due to his Polish roots.

The Project runs until the end of January 2020. On 20 February, the Polish Consul General will host a reception in Edinburgh for schools that complete the third task. Each school completing this task will also receive a book signed by President Lech Walesa.

Please take three minutes to watch [this video](#) where children from St Michael's School in Peterborough were inspired by the legend of the Wawel dragon.

Find out more about the [links between Scotland and Poland](#).

For more help or information visit [Project Polish](#) or contact info@projectpolish.com.

David Huse, Project Polish



Science in the language class

Our Royal Zoological Society of Scotland 'Science in the language class' held another Spanish Day at Edinburgh Zoo in September when over 200 upper primary pupils and 20 teachers took part. Each school also received a free Spanish language card pack, worth £50. If you missed out, then Spanish sessions at Edinburgh Zoo are available to book at any time through the Edinburgh Zoo education website at standard zoo education rates. More information on the programme and on the resources is available from tinyurl.com/scilangclass.

"The kids had an amazing time at the zoo. Making links with languages, geography, biology and the conservation work you are doing is such a brilliant approach. We can't wait to get the games unpacked and give them a go in the classroom." Teacher, Merchiston Castle School.

StampIT, our partner for the Spanish language pack, have also launched a great new competition. Details are on the website or contact Sandie Robb srobb@zss.org.uk

Packs for French, Japanese and Gaelic are also available and look out for some individual games in German and Italian which are due to launch in January 2020.

Sandie Robb, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland



Science Specialist Confucius Classroom

We've been holding special 'panda poo' tea ceremonies at Edinburgh Zoo. Don't worry, it's not tea made of panda poo! It is tea grown with panda poo as fertiliser. As an added extra, on some Friday afternoons, the public have been entertained by watching the tea ceremony and tasting some panda tea. We also have a mini plastic Chinese tea set for the younger participants to enjoy. Panda tea was invented in 2012 by a lecturer at Sichuan University. It is grown in Ya'an, Sichuan.



"The Chinese tea ceremony is one of the oldest ceremonies still celebrated today and I was lucky enough to have a special training when I visited Chengdu in July, courtesy of our partner Southwest Jiaotong University.

"I've also written a guide which is available to download from [Beyond the Panda](#) (in the 'Zoo Fun with Mandarin' section). This includes production of tea, the tea ceremony, drinking the tea, varieties of tea, and how this links to giant pandas – through their poo! It also includes Mandarin language links." Sandie Robb, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) Language Project Coordinator.

In addition, through our Confucius Classroom, we have some limited free places to Edinburgh Zoo – see [SCILT](#)



[News](#) for details. For those schools unable to visit the zoo, please note our RZSS Beyond the Panda programme is now completely free of charge with expert visits, outreach and resources available for nursery through to secondary all across Scotland.

Sandie Robb, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

Training the next generation of European educators

UK and German universities joined forces in May 2019 to host an innovative showcase to shine a spotlight on the deep and vital scientific, creative and cultural partnerships that exist between British and German academia.

The BUILA/DAIA Showcase at the British Embassy in Berlin explored themes contributing to key European priorities and demonstrated how partners from across Europe are collaborating at the cutting edge of science, technology and education.

One such example of educational collaborations is the partnership between Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the University of Glasgow on a project called GET-SET-GO.

Education for global citizenship and the internationalisation of teacher education

is at the heart of the collaboration. GETs (German Educational Trainees) assist with the teaching of German in Scottish primary and secondary schools, while SETs (Scottish Educational Trainees) come for a study and teaching programme to Mainz. GO (Global Outreach – Global Citizens) brings German and Scottish students together to address European challenges through voluntary work in education.

The project contributes to the development of a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced young professionals in both Scotland and Germany while the participants are also gaining an invaluable teaching experience. The programme not only gives future German English teachers insight into a different school system, Scottish culture and traditions, but also offers Scottish

trainee teachers an insight into German culture and traditions.

"The GET – SET – GO collaboration involves activities which equip all participants with the skills and understanding to take responsibility, value diversity and play an active part in European democratic life today," said Professor Sigrid Rieuwerts, initiator of the programme at the University of Mainz.

Sigrid Rieuwerts, University of Mainz



Languages beyond school

Language and government



My name is Stephanie Mitchell. I'm now a civil servant working on international trade policy.

Before I joined the Scottish Government, I worked for the European Parliament and the European Commission in Brussels, as well as for an American law firm in its Beijing office and across the Asia-Pacific region fighting counterfeiting for a major software company.

What languages have you learned?

My best languages are Chinese (Mandarin) and French – I've worked and lived in each of them for at least a decade. I also know some Spanish and German, but not nearly as well, and whenever I travel I try to pick up a few words of a language that might be useful. I can honestly say languages are the one thing I learnt at school that have been vital for the entire rest of my life and career.

How have any language skills helped you in your work or personal life?

Without language skills I would never have been able to work in and around China so effectively, or to pass the European institutions civil service competition, which you have to do in two languages. To get your first promotion there, you have to pass a tough test in a third language as well. In all honesty, every colleague I had in the EU had better language skills than mine!

What benefits do you think language skills bring?

Learning Chinese is hard at first as there is nothing familiar about it. But there is a hidden reward – once you learn the pronunciation, specially the tonal aspects, you realise that there is far less grammar than in many European languages such as French or German – so if you persevere, progress becomes easier the further you go on.

Languages have given me amazing opportunities – I've met fascinating political and human rights figures, I've been able to help businesses sort out problems, and I enjoy myself wherever I travel, as you make real connections with people when you can share even a short conversation in their language. There's no reward like the sparkle in someone's eye when you cross that barrier and they realise you've made an effort, and that you share some common interest.

Do you have any advice for anyone considering learning a language?

Learning languages in general gets easier the more you do of it. You learn which sorts of things to worry about and you recognise the ways related languages work.

Context helps a huge amount: if you're watching the news there are pictures to give you a clue as to what the presenter is speaking about; if you're shopping there are a limited number of things someone's going to be trying to tell you. You can prepare yourself too, with phrases you know you'll need, or with photos to get a message across.

For all that my work has depended on using languages, probably the best moment I remember was using two words of Uzbek to ask a woman there what she was sewing, or a similar experience up a remote mountain in China where a village auntie taught me her embroidery stitches – and criticised me just the way my own mum would!

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At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.

