

Press Release

UK Students Love Languages!

The ALL European Language Olympics competition has just finished, and language students from England beat their European counterparts past the finish line to scoop first, second and third places! Students from the UK answered over 15 million questions across the three week competition, which began on the European Day of Languages (26th September), and ended on the last day of the Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi (14th October).

The Association for Language Learning (ALL), based at the University of Leicester, represents a nationwide community of language teachers - teachers of all languages, working in all sectors. The Association teamed up with ALL Corporate Member *Language Perfect* to run the ALL European Language Olympics, an intense online competition to learn vocabulary, verbs and common phrases from a wide range of foreign languages.

Students from all over Europe got involved in the competition, and went to extraordinary lengths to take part. One UK teacher said: "One girl is on holiday in Greece and taking part at a distance. Another girl was off sick yesterday but was still joining in from home!" Another told us that: "Some of my pupils have taken the opportunity to learn bits of other languages, like Chinese, which has raised their general awareness of language learning."

Overall, the competition was about fun learning, connecting the world together and illustrating the relevance of learning foreign languages. As one teacher said: "The school and pupils are buzzing with the competition. Pupils too are dashing up to us, to let us know what they've been learning!" One pupil contacted us to say: "I would just like to thank you for the European Language Olympics. It will be greatly missed and I can't wait for next year!"

It is a testimonial to our fantastic language teachers, our schools, our investment in technology and most of all our young language learners, that UK students were able to achieve so much in this online international learning competition. This year England had a solid victory. It's a huge boost for languages, for schools, for our education system, and for young people – and it proves that British students love languages!

To find out more, visit the website: <http://www.europeanlanguageolympics.com>.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The ALL European Language Olympics 2010

An intense online competition learning vocabulary, verbs and common phrases from a wide range of foreign languages. www.europeanlanguageolympics.com

2. The Association for Language Learning (ALL)

ALL is the UK-wide subject association for language teachers – of whatever language, at any level. It is run by teachers and other professionals actively involved in language learning and teaching; and exists to represent and support language teachers. www.all-languages.org.uk

3. Language Perfect

Language Perfect is a software company which produces language vocabulary software for learning and for international vocabulary competitions. Students, teachers, travellers, businesspeople, and families use this popular web-based language vocabulary tool. www.languageperfect.co.nz

4. European Day of Languages

26 September is the European Day of Languages: an opportunity to show people across Europe what fun can be had with languages, and to really kick start language learning. For more information, go to: <http://edl.ecml.at> or <http://tiny.cc/CILTedl>.