

## Press release

### More pupils take GCSE languages

After many years of depressing headlines about the decline of languages at GCSE, results released today show that entries for modern languages at GCSE have risen by 2% on last year.

Although numbers for French have decreased by 0.5%, the rate of decline has slowed considerably when compared with the dramatic fall of 13.2% last year. Spanish on the other hand has seen a 10% rise in entries this year and entries for other modern languages have risen by 13.7% since 2011. There were notable increases in Portuguese (19%), Arabic (18%), Polish (18%) and Chinese (17%). There is still concern over German which has declined by 5.5% this year despite polls released yesterday which showed that German is still the language most sought after by UK employers.

Pupils performed well at GCSE with 26.3% of French, 25.7% of German, 32.1% of Spanish and 59.5% of Other Modern Languages entrants achieving an A or A\* grade.

Claire Dodd, joint chair of ALL's Italian Committee, teaches Italian at Gosforth Academy, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. She was thrilled with the results obtained by the school's Italian entrants this year:

'24 students achieved A\*, 4 got A, 1 B, 3 C and 1 E grade. We try to get students really involved in both the language and the culture and frequently organise trips to Italy. We try to give them ownership over their work by getting them to choose their own topics: a film they would like to review, for example. I am very proud of them - they have done so well.'

Ann Swarbrick, President Elect of the Association for Language Learning, said earlier today:

'ALL would like to congratulate the many students who have passed GCSE in a language this year. You don't achieve great results without dedication and hard work. Teachers have done a fantastic job in keeping them on track and focused despite their own concerns about controlled assessment. We should also thank head teachers for making languages a priority as they push for more pupils to complete the EBacc.'

And commenting on the increase in entries for languages other than French, German and Spanish, Steven Fawkes, ALL Membership Officer and chair of the Association's World Languages Group, said:

'In the wake of the multilingual Olympics and advent of the multilingual Paralympics, it is promising that our young people (and clearly their teachers) are seeing the need to gain qualifications in a wider diversity of languages. This reflects well on our attitude to the rest of the world and to our own plurilingual citizens.'

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**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. It exists to represent and support language teachers.

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