

Collins and Livemocha Launch a Search for the UK's Most Multilingual Child and Student in Britain

To mark the launch of their new language learning courses, Collins and Livemocha – the world's largest social network dedicated to language learning – are searching for the UK's most multilingual children and students.

From 1st June 2011, Collins and Livemocha want to hear from the parents or guardians of children (up to and including the age of 15), and students (aged 16 to 22 years), who are conversant in multiple languages, and believe they have what it takes to be awarded the title of 'Most Multilingual Child in Britain' or 'Most Multilingual Student in Britain'.

In keeping with this quest, Collins and Livemocha have discovered the UK's leading multilingual adults, Richard Simcott and Ray Gillon, who speak 40 languages between them.

Richard Simcott is conversant in a staggering 33 languages. Richard works as the language consultant for eModeration – an international, specialist user-generated content moderation company – giving advice on multilingual projects and providing a QA service for their multilingual work.



The list of languages Richard speaks and has studied in any depth are: English (mother tongue); French, Spanish, German, Dutch and Macedonian (near-native level, Richard is often assumed to be a native or bilingual speaker of these languages); Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Welsh, Czech, Esperanto, Bulgarian and Serbo-Croat (able to communicate thoughts and ideas easily); Danish, Romanian, Russian, Albanian, Greek and British Sign Language - able to converse with speakers at a conversational level and read (intermediate level); Icelandic, Hebrew, Mandarin, Arabic, Thai, Georgian, Norwegian, Luxembourgish, Polish, Estonian, Turkish, Slovene and Latvian (has studied and can communicate these languages at a basic level).

His popular YouTube channel can be seen at www.youtube.com/user/torbyrne

Ray Gillon's current language count is 26. He is a self-taught polyglot, learning on location and via his extensive library (the accumulation of many trips abroad) which contains innumerable phrases, grammar and vocabulary books.



In 1993, Gillon started his own consultancy; which involves project management of foreign language versioning of Hollywood movies, predominantly for Warner Bros., but also 20th Century Fox, Disney, Dreamworks, Universal, Paramount and Polygram. The greatest number of languages on any one project to date was Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, which was dubbed into 37 foreign languages.

Languages that Ray speaks (in order of competence) includes: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Catalan, Russian, Polish, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Bulgarian, Czech (Slovak), Turkish, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Serbo-Croat, Mandarin, Arabic, Japanese, Thai, Cantonese,

Tamil and Lithuanian.

Ray comments that "Languages are a passport which open many doors and opportunities. I hope that our current government enables our potential talents to spread their wings and bring more business to this country through refined language skills."

The Nomination Process – Most Multilingual Child

All nominations are to be emailed to mostmultilingualchild@collinslanguage.com

Emails must include

- Child's name
- Child's age
- Number of languages that they can speak
- Which languages they speak
- Place of residence and school
- Parent's/guardian's name
- Parent's/guardian's contact details (phone number, email address)

Final date for submissions is 1st November 2011.

Entrants should be resident in the UK, and available to take part in the judging process during November 2011. Entry is open to children up to and including the age of 15 years.

Judging will be conducted over Skype (or equivalent) from the child's school, or at a location agreed by you, with an accredited judge.

Winner to be announced in December 2011.

For full terms and conditions, please visit www.collinsmostmultilingual.com

The Nomination Process – The Most Multilingual Student in Britain

All submissions (either personal or on behalf of someone else), should be emailed to mostmultilingualstudent@collinslanguage.com, and are to include the following:

- Name
- Age
- Number of languages spoken
- Names of the languages spoken
- Name of college, university, or institute of higher education
- Contact details (phone number, email address)

All information regarding nominees will be kept in compliance with HarperCollins' privacy policy.
Final date for submissions – 1st November 2011.

Entrants should be resident in the UK, and available to take part in the judging process during November 2011. Entry is open to students in further and higher education (applicants must be aged between 16 and 22 and in full-time education)

Judging will be conducted over Skype (or equivalent) with an accredited judge supplied by Collins or ALL (Association of Language Learning).

Winner to be announced in December 2011.

For full terms and conditions, please visit www.collinsmostmultilingual.com

The Judging Process

Throughout November, a relaxed and fun judging process will take place, with nominees chatting to the judges fluent in their individual languages over webcam. The schoolchild and student shown to be conversant in the most languages will be declared the winner.

Judges will be supplied by Collins and the ALL (Association For Language Learning) – the UK's major subject association for the teaching of foreign languages.

In December 2011, the winners of this first-ever competition to celebrate language proficiency will be announced, and each winner will receive an iPad2 loaded with a selection of Collins' e-books and apps, and their schools or universities will receive a selection of bestselling dictionaries and language learning resources.

To find out more about Collins Livemocha Active Language Courses in French, Spanish, German and Italian, please see <http://www.collinslanguage.com/livemocha/default.aspx>

**For media information on the search for Britain's Most Multilingual Child and Student, please contact ruby@deliberate-pr.com
020 7313 6539 / 07891 870 816**