

# Arabic Language and Culture in Schools

Welcome!

# This conference

- History
- Collaboration between volunteers from agencies: ALL World Languages SIG, British Council, CfBT, ...
- Sponsors: The Anglo Omani Society
- Hosts: Dulwich College

# Nick Mair, Dulwich & ISMLA

- Speak to the Future
- Sign the campaign about Asset Languages here:
- <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/keep-our-languages-exams-every-language-is-an-asset>

# Languages in the UK; the UK in the World

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Association for Language Learning

# UK: Changing times

- National Curriculum
- Primary Languages
- GCSE and other accreditations
- A-level
- Academies / Free Schools etc. and curriculum
- HE
- Teacher Training arrangements

# Across the Channel

- EC Commissioner for Multilingualism
- But are we clear what it means?

# Where is the European language policy going?

## Multilingualism is central...



# NC review

- Timescale extended
- ... additional time should be built in to the review timetable so that recommendations, and the implications of the **international evidence** for individual subjects, can be fully debated and considered before final decisions are taken.



## ■ Bilingualism?

# Current KS2 consultation

- proposal requires primary schools to teach one or more of French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish or a classical language (Latin or Ancient Greek) to pupils at Key Stage 2
- + they may teach any other language they wish

# GCSE (Language Trends)

- Slight increase in numbers in 2012
- EBacc related
- Some diversity
- Forums deploring inconsistency
- Forthcoming changes - EBCs ?
- Reforming KS4 qualifications consultation

# Reforming KS4 qualifications consultation - closed 10 December 2012

- From the text:
- Government's plans to restore rigour and confidence to our examination system at age 16, which has been undermined by years of continued grade inflation.
- Raising our expectations of attainment for all students will drive up standards as teaching and learning improve to meet that challenge.

## ■ Languages

- 7.2. We intend to include ancient and modern languages as EBCs. The number of different languages currently offered at GCSE – 24 different languages, in total – mean that we need to take particular account of the practical implications of running the competition. Some of these GCSEs have much higher take-up than others; the overwhelming majority of examination entries are in French, German and Spanish. Only six languages GCSEs are offered by more than one Awarding Organisation: French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish and Urdu.
- The top six languages recently identified as important for businesses were French, German, Spanish, Mandarin, Polish and **Arabic**. Ancient languages provide an important foundation for the study of modern languages and civilisation. Our forthcoming consultation on accountability will consider how languages should be reflected in accountability measures.

# OFQUAL A-level consultation (closed)

- adapt our regulatory approach to **strengthen university involvement and to allow universities to determine subject content**

We hope to achieve the following:

- Equality of access for students to the full range of universities
- Support for selection to universities
- Minimum design rules will help to prevent perceptions that some specifications and/or exam boards are easier than others

# University applications

- Russell Group Universities plans for a similar measure (EBacc+) in KS5 – ‘facilitating subjects’ – Eng. Literature, Maths, Science, MFL, Humanities
- <http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1538063>

# HE

- UCAS reporting decline in Languages (esp. non-European)



- **Report by Universities UK, 'The Future of Research':** "Language training is a strategically important but vulnerable area for researchers. As a deficit, it contributes to the general reluctance of UK students and researchers to travel... **Universities should work with schools to assert the need for competence in a foreign language as a prerequisite for a research career in any field.**"

[www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Pages/Thefutureofresearch.aspx](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Pages/Thefutureofresearch.aspx)

# Divisions and connections

- Coalition Policy:
  - Taking away central support
  - Establishing separate entities
  - Institutions: Independence or Fragmentation?
  - Giving professionals responsibility
- ALL policy:
  - Working together locally
  - Joining up with agencies nationally and internationally
  - Giving professionals support
  - This conference

# Snapshots of workshops

- Samia – Getting started
- Taoufiq – Incorporating culture
- Swapshop
- Sawsan – Assessment

- Vicky – School partnerships
- Samia / Doha – Arabic toolkit
- Mourad – e-learning
- Jim and Asif – Professional development
- Mohammed Amejje

# Panel: Next steps for Arabic

- Alan Henderson, The Anglo-Omani Society
- Vicky Gough, British Council
- Jim Anderson, Goldsmiths London
- Mohammed Amejje, Cambridge Assessment
- Elizabeth Routledge, Edexcel
- Questions and points from the conference

Next steps

# All of our Languages are a national asset

- Remain in touch
- Speak in harmony
- Maintain profile
- Remember European Day of Languages 26 September
- Remember the European Language Label
- Hola project 2012

# CfBT

- interesting action research undertaken in Abu Dhabi schools, downloadable from the CfBT website.  
[www.cfbt.com](http://www.cfbt.com)
- (and <http://www.cfbt.com/evidenceforeducation/ourresearch/evidenceforpractice/actionresearch.aspx> more specifically)



# ALL

- World Languages SIG
- World Languages Forum (jiscmail)
- AFDA event in Aix-en-Provence
- viz pdf

# ALL membership benefits

- Representation
- Connections and offers
- CPD events (locally through Networks / Branches)
- Annual Conference at members' rate
- Language Committees and SIGs
- Weekly email bulletin (ALLnet)
- Online Publications (and **Languages Today**)

# Join ALL here:

- [http://www.all-languages.org.uk/join/join\\_us](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/join/join_us)

# Evaluation

- What next for Arabic teachers in UK?

# Find this presentation etc.

- [www.ALL-languages.org.uk](http://www.ALL-languages.org.uk)
- Click Community
- Scroll down and choose Committees
- Click World Languages

- Day of Arabic Language, 18 December
- Mabrook!
- 2013 has been designated Qatar UK Year of Culture,
- one of the long term initiatives that has been proposed is a programme for the teaching of Arabic language and culture.

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