

Press Release

18/03/2014

Joining up language learning

2014 is a very important year for language learning – from September 2014, the teaching of languages will be compulsory for all 7 – 14 year olds in England. This will be a challenge for colleagues in primary schools, many of whom will be teaching languages for the first time, and for those in secondary schools, who will need to assess what progress these students have made, and build on these foundations. So where do language teachers across the country find the support and advice they need to rise to these new challenges?

The Association for Language Learning (ALL) is the UK's major subject association for teachers of all languages, at all levels, and in all sectors. ALL's annual conference, **Language World**, is the key national event for language teachers, bringing them together to share ideas, offer mutual support and plan for the future for languages education. This year our theme is 'Joined Up': exploring ways we can work together to meet the most important challenges we face as a subject community.

"Language World has been for me, for more than ten years now, the one training event I never miss," says Rachel Hawkes, ALL's President. "It is an annual immersion in reflection and creativity, the re-awakening of enthusiasm through fresh ideas, the constructive debate about pedagogy, policy and practice, and the joyful encounter with like-minded colleagues... There will be something for everyone."

The packed programme of workshops, major talks and plenaries, with updates, ideas and inspiration from a host of speakers from all over languages education, will include:

On Friday 04 April:

- At **11:55**, the **Mary Glasgow Plenary Lecture**: Judith Woodfield on *Content and Language Intergrated Learning (CLIL): The best BOGOF deal for whole school improvement and transition*.
- At **16:00**, our regular **Panel Debate**, chaired this year by actor and languages champion Larry Lamb. We'll be asking guests from the worlds of education, business, politics and the media about the challenges ahead for languages.

- At **17:00**, the **UK launch** of the [Language Perfect World Championships 2014](#), a global languages competition run in association with New Zealand based firm Language Perfect.
- At **19:30**, the launch of the [2013 Language Trends Survey](#). This annual survey of primary and secondary schools is conducted by the Languages Education Team (formerly CILT, now part of the CfBT Education Trust), in partnership with the Association for Language Learning and the Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association. It explores aspects of the teaching and learning of languages in primary and secondary education in England and has become a barometer for the health of languages in English schools.

On Saturday 05 April:

- At **10:15**, the **President's Plenary**: Rachel Hawkes on *ALL together better: Joining up policy, practice, professionals and phases*.

Language World is one of the biggest annual events for teachers of languages and brings together all that's best in the world of language teaching: top thinkers speaking on topics close to their hearts, leading practitioners sharing their latest resources, policy makers explaining the thinking behind recent developments and passionate teachers ready to share ideas and exchange views. In the lead up to the introduction of the new national curriculum in September 2014, it encourages delegates to work together across sectors to support and promote language teaching and learning in the UK.

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For further information, please contact:

Wendy Newman
Professional Officer
Association for Language Learning
University of Leicester
LEICESTER LE1 7RH

e: wendyn@all-languages.org.uk

t: +44 116 229 7604

w: www.all-languages.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

1. **The Association for Language Learning (ALL):** is the UK's major professional association for teachers of foreign languages, with around 5,000 members in all educational sectors. www.all-languages.org.uk
2. **The new national curriculum for England:** The national curriculum statutory programmes of study and attainment targets for languages at key stages 2 and 3 are now available. They should be taught in England from September 2014.
 - [National curriculum in England: languages programmes of study](#)
 - [National curriculum in England: languages programme of study - key stage 2](#)
 - [National curriculum in England: languages programme of study - key stage 3](#)
3. **Language World:** is ALL's national conference. Delegates are language teachers and language teaching professionals from all over the UK. In 2014, the event is being held on 04-05 April 2014 at Lancaster University, and its theme will be 'Joined Up' <http://tiny.cc/LW2014>
4. **Language Trends Survey:** Language Trends surveys take snapshots of language learning activity in a range of sectors/educational phases. This annual survey with schools, conducted in partnership with [CILT](#), part of the [CfBT Education Trust](#), the [Association for Language Learning](#) and the [Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association](#), explores aspects of the teaching and learning of languages in England.
http://www.cilt.org.uk/home/research_and_statistics/language_trends.aspx
5. **Larry Lamb:** speaks five languages – learnt at school, evening classes, and work – and has spoken up for children learning languages on the daytime TV show, *Loose Women*. He hopes to use his celebrity status to support languages further, particularly in the current debate about languages in the National Curriculum.
http://www.dawbell.com/clients/larry_lamb.