

Join the debate!

The **Association for Language Learning** is the UK's major national professional association for teachers of foreign languages (www.all-languages.org.uk). We have around 5,000 members in all sectors of education.

Every year ALL organises and hosts one of the biggest annual events for teachers of languages. It's called **Language World** and normally attracts around 500 delegates over two days. In 2011, the event is being held in London at Imperial College on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 July (<http://tiny.cc/LanguageWorld2011>). Holding **Language World** in London in the run up to the Olympic Games in 2012 is intended to raise the profile of languages education generally and of multilingual London in particular.

At **Language World** this year, we are delighted to be hosting a very special debate on languages and language learning in the UK. On Friday 8th July, we will be welcoming to Language World the BBC's Rosie Goldsmith to chair our plenary, 'Language learning – why bother?' A panel of guests from the worlds of academia, business, politics and the media will debate the pros and cons of language learning in the UK in the 21st century. Should we bother? Should we try to halt the decline, and, how do languages influence our culture and prosperity as a nation? The hour long discussion will take place at 2pm on Friday afternoon.

Professor David Crystal is an eminent linguist and author, patron of the Association for Language Learning, and president of the UK National Literacy Association.

Richard Hardie joins us from the Swiss bank UBS and is also Chair of the Hackney Learning Trust.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon is Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, Leader of the House of Lords 2008-10 and a languages graduate, who has supported languages on a number of occasions in the Lords.

Professor John White is an educational philosopher from the Institute of Education in London.

Our Chair, **Rosie Goldsmith**, is a journalist specialising in arts and international affairs, a media consultant and a proud of champion European languages and literature.

This debate is intended to deal with one of the central issues in language teaching today – what place should language teaching have in the UK have and why?

ENDS

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)

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.

2. Language World

Language World is ALL's national conference, which attracts around 500 delegates over two days. Our delegates are language teachers and language teaching professionals from all over the UK and all over the world. They represent all languages and all sectors from primary and secondary language teaching through to higher and adult education. In 2011, the event is being held in London at Imperial College on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 July. <http://tiny.cc/LanguageWorld2011>.

3. Rosie Goldsmith

Our Chair, Rosie Goldsmith, is a journalist specialising in arts and international affairs. During her 20 year career at the BBC, she covered events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall and the revolutions in eastern Europe, and also presented BBC Radio shows like 'Front Row' and 'Crossing Continents'. She is now a media consultant and a proud of champion European languages and literature.

<http://www.soundsright.biz/about-us/about-us>.

4. Professor David Crystal

Professor David Crystal is an eminent linguist and author in the fields of languages and linguistics, and a consultant, contributor, or presenter on several radio and television programmes and series. He is patron of the Association for Language Learning, as well as president of the UK National Literacy Association. http://www.davidcrystal.com/David_Crystal/biography.htm.

5. Richard Hardie

Richard Hardie read History and French at university, before pursuing a career in business and corporate finance. He is now Non-Executive Vice Chair of UBS Ltd in London, which is part of the UBS Group, the world's largest financial asset manager. He is also Chair of the Hackney Learning Trust - Hackney's local education authority. http://www.bitc.org.uk/london/leadership/r_hardie.html.

6. Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon is a languages graduate, who has supported languages on a number of occasions in the Lords. She was Leader of the House of Lords from 2008-10, spokesperson for Education in 2010 and takes a special interest in foreign policy and development. She is now Shadow Leader of the House of Lords.

<http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/janet-royall/32312>.

7. Professor John White

Professor John White is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Education in the Department of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies at the Institute of Education in London. His research field is the mind of the learner and the relationship between educational aims and their applications to school curricula. His published work includes '*What schools are for and why*', and '*Rethinking the School Curriculum: Values, Aims and Purposes*'.

http://www.ioe.ac.uk/staff/EFPS/EFPS_76.html.