

Press Release

12/02/2013

Imagine: transforming the way we think about language learning

The Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove MP has announced that the teaching of languages will be added to the Key Stage 2 curriculum. This means that language learning will in future be compulsory from age 7 to age 14.

ALL President Ann Swarbrick said: “A new era dawns for languages. Congratulations to the many members who have fought for languages to be a serious part of the primary curriculum for well over a decade.”

ALL President Elect, Rachel Hawkes, said “We can welcome the firm proposal to add foreign languages to the primary national curriculum for the four years of KS2. Also positive is the clear commitment to providing a continuous schema of language learning from 7 – 14, whereby the importance of developing an understanding of how language works at the earliest stage lays the foundation for language learning throughout education and for later life.”

Language World, the annual conference of the Association for Language Learning, is a national key event in languages education. In response to the recent Government announcements, Language World 2013 will imagine a brave new world for language teaching. How should languages be taught in both primary and secondary education? How do we ensure continuity between primary and secondary language teaching? How should we exploit a currently neglected resource – home languages? And how do we make language learning accessible to all? Language World will take place 22-23 March 2013 at Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University, and its theme will be ‘*Imagine...*’

On **Friday 22 March** we will be hearing from leading linguist, author and Patron of the Association for Language Learning, David Crystal; his title is ***New perspectives on grammar***. Friday will also see the launch of the ***Language Trends Survey*** for 2012. 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.

Saturday 23 March will see the return of our regular Panel Debate, in which we'll be asking guests from the worlds of education, business, politics and the media about the challenges ahead for languages. At a time when lack of language skills is increasingly affecting the ability of many businesses to trade overseas, and our position in the world requires us more than ever to be able to communicate in other languages, our panel debate will ask: 'What should languages education in multilingual Britain look like?' Are we really the monolingual nation that many believe, or do we have significant untapped linguistic assets? Should language learning still focus so strongly on European languages?

The panel debate takes place from **14.55 - 16.20** on **Saturday 23 March**. Our chair, **Rosie Goldsmith**, is a proud champion of languages and a journalist specialising in arts and international affairs. Our panelists include **Gillian McLaughlin**, of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission, **Anne Pauwels**, Professor of Sociolinguistics at the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London, **Tony McAleavy**, Director of Education at CfBT Education Trust.

There will also be a wide range of sessions on creativity, global learning, drama and music in the languages classroom, neuroscience, improving motivation and achievement, languages as a medium of education and classroom practice.

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. Amid the current Curriculum Review, it encourages delegates to work together across sectors to imagine new directions for language teaching and learning in the UK.

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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. **Curriculum Review:** Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove MP, has announced that all of the existing subjects in the National Curriculum will be retained at the same key stages as now, and that the teaching of languages will be added at Key Stage 2.
Read Mr Gove's [statement on the future of qualifications](#), view [Department for Education plans for the national curriculum](#), including the decision to [make foreign languages a compulsory subject at Key Stage 2 from September 2014](#), and [plans for secondary school accountability](#) on the [DfE website](#).
3. **Language World:** is ALL's national conference. Delegates are language teachers and language teaching professionals from all over the UK. In 2013, the event is being held on 22-23 March 2013 at Nottingham Conference Centre, Nottingham Trent University, and its theme will be 'Imagine...' <http://tiny.cc/LW2013>
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. **David Crystal:** David Crystal is one of the UK's leading linguists, academics and authors, best known for his work on English language studies, linguistics and literature. He is also the patron of the Association for Language Learning. <http://davidcrystal.com/>
6. **Rosie Goldsmith:** is a journalist specialising in arts and current affairs, in the UK and abroad, who speaks French, German, and Italian. She has travelled the world, covering events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of apartheid in South Africa, and human rights in Egypt, and has presented flagship BBC radio shows like Front Row, A World In Your Ear and Crossing Continents. <http://www.soundsright.biz/about-us/about-us>
7. **Gillian McLaughlin:** Gillian is Head of LLP Coordination Sector at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission. http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php.
8. **Anne Pauwels:** Anne is Professor of Sociolinguistics and Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Cultures at SOAS. <http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff60359.php>
9. **Tony McAleavy:** Tony is the Education Director for CfBT. He has corporate responsibility for the educational content of all CfBT projects, and advises the Trustees on their priorities for public domain research.
http://www.cfbt.com/evidenceforeducation/about_us/our_team/tony_mcaleavy.aspx