

Anthea Bell Young Translator Competition 2022

Students' views (Y8-13) from the Duchess Community High School, Alnwick

*I have been very lucky to have been given the opportunity to participate in the Anthea Bell competition. Modern Foreign Languages have always been an important and favoured lesson of mine and I think that a language is a valuable skill to have as it opens up a whole world of opportunities that may be hard for an individual speaking only one language to obtain. This is why I think **it is vital to promote language learning, especially in our modern and "smaller" world.***

Not only that, when translating you also get the chance to interpret a text, meaning you can add your own meaning to it, which is an enjoyable and liberating thing to do, together with understanding the cultural meaning of the text. Translating is not only changing a text from one language to another, it's about using a mixture of the culture from the country of that language, cultural context of the text, and your own meaning, which makes it extra special and unique.

Grace S - Y13

I entered the Anthea Bell translation competition because I enjoy languages. I particularly enjoy translating and I thought it would be a good opportunity to have a go. For the future I have also considered being a translator as a career, so I thought it would be good to see what it is like.

***The reason I like languages is because you can see and hear your progress.** You can see how much you've improved, and it makes you feel more confident in general. Also, it means that if you ever go to that country, you can communicate (and it's also a reason to go to that country - to practise your language skills)! You are then able to travel and understand more, and make more friends from other countries - whether through being pen pals or meeting each other on a visit.*

In conclusion, I think that the Anthea Bell competition encouraged me to do more with languages and also made me realise that translating can be done as a career. Languages are an important subject to learn and can be used in many jobs, so why not learn a language?

Grace O Y9

*To me, languages are an important aspect of education. Through learning a language you learn not only how to communicate but also understand other cultures. **As I have always wanted to travel and learn about history, I believe languages will play a vital role in allowing me to do so.** By schools entering their students to language competitions similar to Anthea Bell, students will have a broader access to learning and enjoying languages. This can benefit them greatly as it opens up many more opportunities such as working/living in other countries, communicating with people from different backgrounds, and the ability to have jobs such as translator, language teacher, interpreter, and much more.*

In conclusion, languages are an important aspect of education because they allow you to access a broader range of cultures, opportunities, and jobs, as well as competitions like Anthea Bell which allow students a better understanding of these things.

Rebecca H - Y9

*I decided to do the translation because I wanted a challenge and it looked fun. I like Spanish, and I will most likely choose it for GCSE, so I thought it would be a good experience. **I like Spanish because of how everything sounds and looks.** I enjoyed doing the Anthea Bell Competition because I learned a lot of new words and techniques, and can compare it to other languages for inspiration. I speak English and Dutch and I am learning French and Spanish. I think more children should learn at least one extra language properly as it opens so many doors and creates many opportunities in life. **Don't think you can't! Just do it and enjoy it!** I hope I am inspiring others to take the chance and try it out. If you learn one language, the second will be easier, and imagine how many more jobs you can get, places you could travel to, sights you could see and people you could meet! Don't be scared to try, don't think it's too hard. Just do it! It's so worth it!*

Jasmin C - Y8

I wanted to do the Anthea Bell competition because I think learning another language is a great opportunity as it can help you with a lot of things. I travel a lot so I'm familiar with a lot of different languages and they are really fun to learn. They can be challenging at times, however, being bilingual is a great skill to have.

I think it's worth learning another language if you can, as a lot of languages 'overlap', so if you learn one language you'll find it easier to learn another. I think a lot more children should learn a different language as it gives you so many opportunities. I can speak German, English and a bit of Japanese, French and Spanish. Learning languages has opened my eyes to different cultures.

William O - Y8

*The opportunity to take part in the Anthea Bell prize is something for which I am very grateful. **It is very important to ensure that the field of MFL receives just as many extra-curricular opportunities as other subjects.***

*As someone in their final year of Sixth Form, my passion for learning languages and specifically translating work is apparent. I have always had this desire to learn languages, not only for the aspect of utility they bring, but also for the deeper, more cultural understanding of a country's people. In this regard, the Anthea Bell prize excels at not only creating an interesting and more creative approach to translation work but also providing a more cultural insight into a language through the window of literature. This initiative creates an interest in the area of MFL. With numbers of students opting to take a language dropping every year, **I believe opportunities like this are the key to revitalising and reengaging young people into this area of education.***

Ben Carter - y13

I thought the poem I started translating at school was quite fun, so I finished it at home. I think, as the poem was funny and not very serious, it made me want to take part more. It helped me understand Spanish a bit more too. It challenged me by having to make it rhyme, which although difficult, was also fun. I enjoy Spanish and translating the poem, although challenging, allowed me to learn some new words and phrases. I think Spanish will help me communicate better with people from other countries, so it was a very fun and useful thing to do.

Emilia M Y8