

ALL, British Council & Cultural Partners

‘Express Yourself’

***A celebration of languages in education and
community through speaking and performance***

January-March 2022

Context, Outline and Key Dates/Organisations

1. Context

Speaking a modern foreign language confidently and coherently is a prominent factor of the MFL curriculum throughout the four devolved education departments in the United Kingdom and forms a critical part of linguistic and cultural development for all learners of languages.

*In 2021, with COVID-19 having had an impact on almost all areas of education but most acutely that of the teaching and learning of MFL, ALL, the British Council and cultural institutes in the United Kingdom combined efforts to devise an exciting event entitled '**Express Yourself**'. This was be an opportunity to showcase language learners' enjoyment of, and commitment to, a language that they are learning, or that is used in their home community (except for English!). We are repeating this in Spring 22.*

2. Outline

To encourage participants to practise the language they are learning, or use in their community, they are invited to prepare either:

- *A short poem in the target language (written by themselves or by another author)*
- *A short presentation*
- *A short sketch*
- *A short dialogue*

This can be a solo or joint performance but should be no longer than **90 seconds** in total. The participants will record themselves delivering their performance, however under-16 participants should use either PowerPoint slides/Bitmoji/other pictures or video imagery rather than showing their faces.

These performances will then be uploaded to a chosen social media platform (Twitter, Instagram or YouTube) with the hashtags *#CelebrateSpeaking* and the language chosen (e.g. *#French*) by **28th February 2022**, following which our language partners will select a favourite performance (the British Council will select their favourite heritage/cultural impact performance).

Those chosen by the participating organisations will be invited to attend a live virtual celebration event in March 2022, hosted by the British Council with a VIP guest, and either deliver their performance live, or permit a recording of their performance to be played to the attendees.

Here is the link to the celebration event from 2021 <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/languages/express-yourself-lockdown>

It is important to note that the main ethos for this event is to practise a language that pupils enjoy learning in the classroom, or people enjoy speaking in their community, and that they feel

confident delivering a performance without reliance on notes – it is a celebration rather than a competition.

Don't delay and get involved today in the Express Yourself 2022, a celebration of languages through speaking and performance!

3. Key Dates

	Event Stage/Activity
1 January 2022	Submissions open for <i>Express Yourself</i>
March 2022 (Date TBD)	Live virtual celebration event (Microsoft Teams Live)

4. Key Organisations (List TBC)

- British Council
- ALL (Association for Language Learning)
- Spanish Embassy Education Office
- Goethe-Institut
- Institut Français
- QFI (Qatar Foundation International)
- Japan Foundation
- Italian Consulate Education Department & Anna Constantino (University of Greenwich)
- ISMLA (Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association)
- Coventry, City of Languages – Anna Grainger and Vicki Seaton
- Express Yourself Festival of Languages North-East 2022 and International Newcastle

Publicity message for community

Express Yourself! *A celebration of languages in education and community through speaking and performance.*

Practise and celebrate a language you are learning, or use in your community, and take part in a virtual festival of speaking!

How do you join in?

Prepare a short poem, presentation, sketch, dialogue in the target language

This can be a solo or joint performance but should be no longer than **90 seconds** in total.

Record yourself delivering the performance, **however** under-16 participants should use either PowerPoint slides/Bitmoji/other pictures or video imagery rather than showing their faces.

Upload your performance to Twitter or Instagram with the hashtags *#CelebrateSpeaking* and the language chosen (e.g. *#Polish*) between **1st and 28th February 2022**.

Remember to use the hashtag or we won't be able to find your performance!

Publicity message for teachers

Express Yourself! *A celebration of languages in education and community through speaking and performance.*

Encourage your pupils to practise and celebrate the language they are learning or use in their community and take part in a virtual festival of speaking!

How do we join in?

Ask pupils to prepare a short poem, presentation, sketch, dialogue in the target language

This can be a solo or joint performance but should be no longer than **90 seconds** in total. Pupils need to record themselves delivering their performance, **however** under-16 participants should use either PowerPoint slides/Bitmoji/other pictures or video imagery rather than showing their faces.

You then need to upload the performances from the school or teacher account will then be uploaded to Twitter or Instagram with the hashtags *#CelebrateSpeaking* and the language chosen (e.g. *#French*) between **1st and 28th February 2022**.

Remember to use the hashtag or we won't be able to find your performance!