

### ***A Taste of Languages* in Falkirk: Pupils as Young Linguistic Detectives**

In partnership with Falkirk Council, Richard Tallaron recently had the opportunity to pilot an exciting new project with two local primary schools, linking the French and English languages. The initiative was coordinated by Laura MacEwan, Development Officer for the 1+2 Languages Policy, and aimed to bring the stories of Richard's bilingual book *A Taste of Languages: Stories of French and English* into classrooms in a creative and engaging way.

The project began with an online session for teachers, where Richard presented the key ideas and resources. We discussed how the book and accompanying animations could be used to support literacy, history, and language learning within the Curriculum for Excellence framework. Teachers were particularly keen to see how the “language detective” approach encouraged learners to make links between English and French through stories, vocabulary, and cultural anecdotes.

We then moved into an interactive online session with pupils. Learners from the two schools were introduced to the concept of becoming “language detectives.” Together we explored some of the fun and surprising connections between French and English — from why English has two words for the same animal (*pig/pork*, *cow/beef*) to the mystery of the Royal Family’s French motto.

Following this, teachers used the animations with their classes, giving pupils time to investigate and create their own presentations.

The project concluded with a feedback session involving the three teachers, Laura MacEwan, and Richard. We reflected on the impact for both staff and pupils, and discussed how this kind of cross-curricular approach can spark curiosity, build confidence in language learning, and bring history to life in the primary classroom.

Should you be interested in bringing this free project to your Primary or Secondary school, please get in touch with Richard directly: [richard@lfee.net](mailto:richard@lfee.net)