

Get involved



The Business Language Champions scheme originated from our colleagues at CILT and CILT Cymru. The programme helps businesses and schools work together to motivate young people to learn languages for work.

For further details please email:
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Scotland's
National Centre
for Languages



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



Heritage

Stirling Castle

Braehead Primary

P5 pupils from Braehead Primary teach key phrases in Chinese to tour guides at Stirling Castle. Pupils film a virtual tour of the castle, with commentary in Chinese, and create a map annotated with Chinese characters. They provide an information leaflet, signage for the castle and a quiz, all in Chinese. The project enhances subject areas across the curriculum, enabling pupils to develop in literacy, drama and self-confidence, as well as improving language skills and an understanding of the world of work.



“ The project demonstrates that they don't have to wait until they grow up to make use of their Chinese, but that their language skills can be used right here and now. ”

Class Teacher

Stirling High

Stirling High's Higher German class take part in a CSI Stirling project at Stirling Castle. They study an exhibition centred on the identity of two skeletons which were found during an excavation of the castle grounds. Pupils gather information about the skeletons using data from facial reconstruction technology and forensic evidence.

Stirling Castle tasks pupils with creating a video in German to give an overview of the exhibition to German visitors. Pupils put together a storyboard and work in groups to script and produce a short film.

“Honestly, I am so inspired after the project. I cannot wait to organise bigger and better things.”

Principal Teacher of Modern Languages

Hospitality

Jurys Inn

The General Manager and Human Resources Manager visit S3 pupils from Lourdes Secondary to speak about languages in the workplace. They emphasise that languages facilitate communication with people from other countries, and that skills developed through language learning can be used in a wide range of jobs and industries. Pupils create a brochure in French providing information on Jurys Inn and tourist attractions in Glasgow. The pupils who create the best brochures visit the hotel to see first-hand what is involved in running a large, four-star hotel.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to learn about the importance of language learning in the world of work.”

Modern Languages Teacher

The Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa

S4 pupils studying Italian at Holy Rood High visit the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa in order to get a better understanding of why and to what extent languages are used in hospitality. The young people create a brochure in Italian, providing information on tourist attractions in Edinburgh. The brochures are judged by senior management from the hotel and the winning group returns to the hotel to be presented with a prize.



“We learnt that having knowledge of another language is very desirable in the hospitality industry. Hearing this from people who actually worked there made us realise that it would be a good idea to take our study of Italian more seriously! **”**

S4 Learner

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A guide for schools
in Scotland

Language skills for employability

SCILT is working with businesses and schools in Scotland to build capacity in language and employability skills. SCILT's work supports the Scottish Government's youth employment strategy, Developing the Young Workforce, a key driver in delivering the priorities of the National Improvement Framework.

These priorities arrive at a time when globally the demand for language skills is expanding:

- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people remain a key priority of the National Improvement Framework.
- Employers and schools need to develop strong, two-way partnerships that deliver improvements to teaching and learning and bring real-life context into the classroom.
- There can be great advantages for British businesses if employees can communicate with at least reasonable proficiency in the language of clients, customers and suppliers. The vast majority may not require a high level of fluency. However, conversational fluency in another language helps in the conduct of business and can assist staff in their careers.
- Over three quarters of UK businesses have a need for additional language skills among their employees. One in ten state they will need these skills in the next few years.

How the Business Language Champions scheme can help

Business Language Champions helps schools and businesses build partnerships through languages to support teachers in developing young people's learning about the world of work and of the value of language skills to their future employability. These projects enable schools to deliver on Developing the Young Workforce and the National Improvement Framework, as well as build crucial partnerships.

The programme helps schools to:

- foster links with the local business community
- develop opportunities for authentic, interdisciplinary learning
- bring the relevance of languages in the workplace to life
- raise learners' awareness of the types of jobs that require languages
- inspire and motivate learners and raise the numbers of pupils taking languages
- enhance learners' knowledge of the world of work



How your school can become a Business Language Champion

It doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming for busy staff in schools! Here are a few motivating and exciting activities to inspire your language learners:

- employee visits to schools
- learner and teacher visits to local employers to see languages in action
- business projects for the classroom
- real-life activities around specific aspects of the curriculum
- collaboration with other subject areas to plan joint activities

More replicable ideas for projects to support partnerships between schools and businesses are available on our website. Why not be inspired?

www.scilt.org.uk/Business/

Developinglanguageskillstheworldofwork.aspx



Food and drink

Walkers Shortbread



S2 pupils at Elgin Academy create cue cards in Chinese for the International Sales Team to use on trips to China. Pupils present to a panel at Walkers Shortbread headquarters and teach the team useful phrases for conducting business in China, which correlate with the cue cards. Pupils highlight the importance of Chinese business etiquette and the role this plays in the business world. The project enhances the learning and teaching of Chinese by putting it in a meaningful and relevant context.

“Linking a local business with a school benefited my teaching. I found the pupils were very keen to practise what they had learnt.”

Chinese Teacher

Loch Duart (Salmon)

S3 pupils from Montrose Academy complete a series of workshops looking at employability skills, job adverts and applications, facilitated by the Sales Manager from Loch Duart. This culminates in pupils producing their own job application in French or

German. Pupils create promotional materials about Loch Duart in the target languages including adverts, information leaflets, sales merchandise and social media campaigns. The project between Montrose Academy and Loch Duart has been running for four years.



“I think it is very useful to have a language and I am considering taking French over the next few years. Studying a language opens many doors for you when you leave school and when looking for a job.**”**

S3 Learner

