

Languages Network Group Scotland (LANGS)

Meeting: Thursday, 29 October 2020



The image shows a document titled 'LANGUAGES NETWORK GROUP SCOTLAND (LANGS)' with a logo in the center. Below the logo, it states 'Meeting on Thursday 29 October 2020, 09.30' and provides a Google Meet link: 'https://meet.google.com/nys-rfw-rhu'. The main content is an 'AGENDA' table with 12 items, including registration, introductions, updates from various organizations, a comfort break, collaborative conversations, a plenary, local authority networking, and a close. The table is as follows:

| AGENDA | | |
|--------|--|----------|
| 1. | Registration | 09.30 |
| 2. | Introductions | |
| 3. | Update from Chair: Sylvia Georgin, Aberdeenshire Council | |
| 4. | Update from Education Scotland – Louise Glen, Senior Education Officer and Shona Hugh, Development Officer Modern Languages | |
| 5. | Update from SCILT/CISS – Fhiona Mackay, Director | |
| 6. | Update from Scottish Government: Helene Cornu, Languages 1+2 Policy manager | |
| 7. | Just a Minute | |
| 8. | Comfort break | 11.00 |
| 9. | Collaborative Conversations through Padlet A. Your language story – what motivated you to love languages? B. Innovative strategies with languages during lockdown in your context C. What's next for languages and how can we take this forward in our own setting? | |
| 10. | Plenary | |
| 11. | Local authority networking | 11.50 |
| 12. | Close | 12.20-30 |

LANGS Agenda, 29 October 2020

Present: [see Annexe]

1. Registration/Welcome

Sylvia Georgin and Chris French, new Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, and Mandy Reeman-Clark, Administrator, welcomed everyone.

2. Introductions

SG introduced herself (1+2 Lead, Aberdeenshire Council) and CF (1+2 Lead, Stirling Council) and provided a rundown of the Agenda for today.

3. Update from Chair

• **New attendees:**

- Karen Liddle and Susan Lawson, Professional Development Officers, CISS
- Laura McAllister, Renfrewshire replacing Lorna Hendricks
- Kathy Graham, DO Edinburgh City
- Zoe Gordon, 1+2 DO West Lothian
- Christopher Sagan, Polish Education, Polish Consulate
- Simon McCauley, Scotland China Education Network (SCEN)
- Stacey Arneil, North Ayrshire replacing Angela Noble

• **Leavers:**

- Angela Noble, North Ayrshire and outgoing Vice Chair. Bethan Owen, outgoing Chair: "Angela was perfect as co-Chair, I will really miss her, though she is to be congratulated on her new post with North Ayrshire."
- Fan Lin, CISS. Fhiona Mackay, Director of SCILT, paid tribute to Fan and thanked her for all her input, dedication and support and acknowledged the real difference she

had made: “I have mixed feelings about this; on the one hand I’m delighted for Fan to have secured this new post with the University of Strathclyde as Adviser on Engagement with China, so, *‘ce n’est qu’un au revoir’*, but she will be greatly missed. Fan acknowledged this tribute and assures us that she can still be contacted for help and advice re all things China.

4. Updates from Education Scotland

Louise Glen:

- E-learning National Offer:
 - Live Learning via e-Sgoil: live and recorded sessions, mainly aimed at Senior Phase pupils and those in quarantine
 - Recorded sessions: mostly from the West Partnership RIC, sharing their resources. Starting with West Partnership only, since there have been problems with compatibility of platforms between some authorities.
 - Supported Learning: exchange of resources – can be documents, video, etc to support NQs
 - Curation teams being set up to quality assure (= in this case, organise and categorise, not ‘crit’) the materials. Interested in volunteers from local authorities to join the Curation Team
 - Subject Network Groups: volunteers required, particularly for ‘less popular’ languages.
- Early Level (partial) Es and Os and benchmarks (for P1 only). In draft form at present, will be on NI Hub soon.
- Senior Phase webinars in RICs
 - Post-SQA announcement towards the end of November
 - 1 per RIC
 - Aimed at Secondary Practitioners
 - Focus on Senior Phase; SQA revisions, arrangements for coping with future lockdowns.

Shona Hugh:

- Reshaping the Languages Leadership Programme:
 - GTCS recognition element will become a mandatory part of the course
 - Participants will have flexible pathways to achieve all assessable elements
 - Will be delivered through a blended learning model of synchronous and asynchronous elements
 - National and local support
 - Draft plan:
 - 2 day face-to-face launch, possibly over a weekend: addresses difficulties of cover, childcare etc
 - Key workshops etc will be provided by RICs/authorities
 - Allows specialism, wider range
 - More flexible
 - More sustainable
 - ‘Course’ can be ‘parked’ and resumed

Comments invited (generally favourable)

- SQA Update for 2020-21:
 - N5: No external assessment; no exams. SQA will not assess coursework. A model of verification, how estimates will be judged etc will follow, in detail, towards the end of November.
 - Higher: Assignment writing element removed. Directed writing increased in significance.

Advanced Higher: Portfolio coursework component removed. Performance talking now 15-20 minutes (slightly shorter). No discussion of the portfolio (for the exam, though you'd hope this element would be retained in class, at least).

5. Update from SCILT/CISS

Fhiona MacKay:

- Languages Week Scotland (LWS) will be held in the week 1 – 5 February 2021. It aims to 'amplify the voices of those who participate in Multilingualism'. A dedicated LWS area is being created on the SCILT website. New logo, elements for Twitter and other social media all available.
- SCILT receiving nominations for Employability Award now.
- Mother Tongue, Other Tongue (MTOT) competition up and running in a revised format.
- 12 schools involved in *Espacios Increibles*.
- New project: '*Socially Just*' Language Teaching – contact Sarah Macfarlane or Lynne Jones.
- Approximately 80 teachers have completed the SCILT/OU Primary Languages course, in various different languages. SCILT and OU presented to the GTCS, who were highly complimentary.
- SCILT running Round Table events.
- 15 schools involved in the Arabic Learning Programme via e-Sgoil. Resource loan boxes distributed to participating schools.
- CISS: virtual exchanges via live streaming taking place with Chinese Universities. Beneficial to both sides: our pupils get to experience 'real Chinese people' and their Chinese as a Foreign Language Student Teachers gain experience with 'real foreigners'.
- Remember: SCILT is there for you!

6. Update from Scottish Government

Hélène Cornu:

- No answer, yet, as to what's happening with funding. Discussions ongoing with COSLA and ADES, though SG will make the final decision. Things will be clearer in early 2021, when the UK Budget is known.
- Because of Covid, the 2020 Survey was not sent out. The 2021 survey is being held, for the moment, but is expected to come out, possibly a cut-down version, once agreed with COSLA et al.
- Still early days to assess the impact of Covid. This was obviously supposed to have been the last year of implementation of 1+2/Scotland's Languages Policy, but we'll have to see.
- PISA 2018: published last week.
 - Overall quite positive.
 - Pupils in Scotland found to be highly aware of global issues
 - % of 15 year olds studying a MFL is less positive. SG is looking into this.
- Erasmus+: SG thinks it is in Scotland's best interests to remain part of this (UK Govt is proposing its own version). Contributions to the evidence bank from those who have benefited from Erasmus are still welcome.

7. Just a Minute:

Louise Whyte, SALT:

- 170 people already signed up for the virtual conference on 7 November 2020. Will be of special interest to primary practitioners.

Liz Neil, British Council:

- Final call for Erasmus+ ends in 25 minutes! Business as usual for the current round.
- PISA: Positive results for Connecting Classrooms, though Scottish pupils found to be below OECD average for self-initiation.

- Virtual partnerships (and funding for this) still possible. (No 'visit' element)
- Large range of Home Learning resources available, including Black Lives Matter, Sustainable Development Goals 10 etc.
- International Education Week (series of virtual events, webinars etc) will be from 16 to 20 November.
- Modern Language Assistants: British Council still looking at the implications of Brexit, but expect to issue a funding call in February, 2021.

Ann McDaid, Radio Lingua:

- Radio Lingua podcasts are available free.
- 4 core courses in French German, Spanish and Italian: suitable for pupils and for teachers' CLPL.
- Travel Diaries, Grammar Sessions all available.

Javier Ramos Linares: Consejería de Educación

- Various online events offered (see screenshot)

Consejería de Educación
Upcoming events

3 NOV 16:30-17:30 ONLINE WORKSHOP Free registration
Pronunciation and intonation in Spanish

14 NOV 14:00-14:45 ONLINE WORKSHOP Free registration
Get involved with Spanish

17 NOV 16:30-17:30 ONLINE WORKSHOP Free registration
Using QR codes in Spanish classes

28 NOV HALF DAY ONLINE SESSION Free registration
Oral communication and games

10:00 Energize your Spanish classes with games
11:00 Oral practice through painting
12:00 Cultural content and oral games

ACCIÓN EDUCATIVA EXTERIOR
CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN EN EL REINO UNIDO E IRLANDA

Junta de Castilla y León

The Language Show

Muchas gracias
asesoriaedimburgo.uk@educacion.gob.es

Seguimos en

educacionyfp.gob.es/reinounido

@consejeriauk

lista de correo

ACCIÓN EDUCATIVA EXTERIOR
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Chris Sagan, Polish Consulate

- L3 Polish 'Guidebook' being produced (should be out by Christmas). Undergoing 'trials' at present. It provides basic Polish in 10 easy steps, in the form of a soap-like journey through Poland (covering greetings and introductions, descriptions, activities etc).
- Contact Chris on dompolsagan@gmail.com.

Sabine Schlüter, Goethe-Institut

- Goethe-Institut offering training sessions; all free. One on 5 November, aimed at primary: Learning German with Songs; one aimed at secondary on 20 November on VLOGS etc.
- Face-to-face seminars in Germany next year.

Eòghan Stewart, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

- Successful online conference for new Gaelic teachers held at the end of May.
- Gaelic immersion course for teachers still available; contact BnG direct; no longer handled by University of Strathclyde.
- There is some movement in negotiations with GTCS to obtain recognition of an ATQ in Gaelic.

Richard Tallaron, LFEE

- Celebrating Scottish Education podcasts available on LFEE website.
- PISA results had been heartening, and accompanied by a favourable article in the Times Ed.
- Immersion courses have been postponed (not cancelled); still hoping to resume them next Easter, or next summer.
- No face-to-face courses at present, but online resources being developed in collaboration with East Renfrewshire.
- 17 Authorities using PowerLanguage.
- Drama-based resources for a cross-curricular approach under development.

Sylvia Warnecke, OU

- Thanks to all development officers who promoted the OU/SCILT course among their staff. 81 teachers participated. Most popular language (this year) is French.
- 200 participants using YASS: Business Communication and Intermediate Spanish are the most popular.
- GTC recognition to be awarded to the course.

Group discussion and Padlet

On resuming, we considered the Padlet [<https://padlet.com/namoderation/em68oklct5igir3e>] that had been set up; reviewing the comments already posted and adding more. And, as part of our oral discussion:

Marie Claire Lyon: Covid has forced us to confront sustainability, sharing of resources etc. Much has been learned about the use of online platforms etc., but the inspiration to study MFL always seems to be personal contact.

Sylvia Georgin: using the link [above] you can revisit the Padlet any time.

Eòghan Stewart: There is less distraction if pupils are learning online...you tend to get volunteers, not conscripts. But we need to remember to **use** the resources, not just bank more and more of them and also sit back and allow learners their head more; not over-organise (rethink methodology).

Thea Pallut: The situation has forced me to learn about Padlet, Wakelet...and a whole lot of things I'd never heard of.

Kathryn Graham: One of the positives has been parental engagement; parents now have a much better idea of what we do, how and why.

Ann Robertson: It's interesting to see how we are learning to collaborate online. It can obviate travel etc., saving time and expense. This is a big opportunity but what also stood out from the posts on the Padlet was the importance of the first cultural encounter people make.

Fhiona Mackay: The cultural experience is why we teach language and culture **together**. We have also learned that online modern language teaching needs a different skillset. Also, for pupils to

speak in the foreign language in front of a bank of 40 screens of people that they don't know can be pretty intimidating. But I suspect the blended approach is a genie out of the bottle even allowing for the eventual appearance of a vaccine.

Richard Tallaron: LFEE is seeking Erasmus funding for a project to harvest learning from across Europe about online delivery.

Jen Read: It can be difficult to gauge your audience; there's less body language to go on and there can be ominous silences, which are not necessarily hostile. Again, new skills.

Sylvia Warnecke: The OU has been running training sessions about this very thing. We will soon be publishing material about creating an online presence, as well as maintaining and guarding your 'time envelope' (working from home so easily becomes a 24/24 job).

Chris French: This Google Meet has worked well, but MS Teams has more functionality and, once set up, tends to be more acceptable to local authority IT systems. And MS Teams' greater functionality enables more instantaneous and real time sharing of information, resources etc. We will let everyone know when we get it up and running.

Sylvia Georgin: Thanks to the presenters, everyone for attending and to David Kerr for doing the minutes; presentations and minutes will be available via the SCILT website in due course.

Move to LA only section of meeting: separate notes to be taken and posted on Team site when up and running.

Proposed dates of next meetings (tbc):

- 25 February 2021, online
- 10 June 2021, online or....maybe face to face!