

**Minutes of LaNGS Meeting**  
**Held in-person and on Teams, Thursday, 09/06/2022**

**1. Welcome from Chair:**

- Sylvia Georgin emphasised how nice it was to have so many back in person; ‘like coming home’.
- 24 people in-person and 20 joining online. Our first attempt at a hybrid.
- We’ll be saying goodbye to Mandy Reeman-Clark.
- Laurence Findlay, Director of Education and Children’s Services and joint SIG chair will be today’s keynote speaker.

**2. Keynote: Laurence Findlay**

*Pre-recorded; the recording is available on the SCILT website; reference to:*

- 1+2 one decade on.
- ‘It’s fitting to celebrate what we’ve all achieved’.
- Over £35m spent to date.
- 69% of all primary schools now providing full entitlement of L2; 64% doing L3 as well.
- Commitment of ML teachers, camaraderie appears undiluted, so ‘let’s keep making the case for ML’.
- There is still work to be done around BGE; particularly as 1<sup>st</sup> gen ‘1+2-ers’ arrive in secondary.
- We must also seek and exploit the message of positive ML role models. Train and develop workforce, IT, especially in primary sector.
- It’s as important as ever to keep abreast of technology developments.
- Laurence reflected on his passion for languages.
- Important to promote cognitive benefits, transferrable skills and employment opportunities of ML study.

**3. Show & Tell: self-evaluation tools**

*Presentations available on SCILT website: highlights follow:*

- Gwen McCrossan, Northern Alliance: An ‘at a glance’ model.
- Sylvia Georgin, Aberdeenshire: 3 step evaluation with definitions: ‘enquiring/emerging/engaging/embedding’ definitions; targeted support [Aberdeenshire Primary Languages Portal](#) (Glow sign-in required).
- Bethan Owen, Ann Robertson, Katie Haigh, Kathryn Graham, TILES – Toolkit for Improvement in Languages Education in South East\* Schools
  - In depth research project. Online resource: ‘pooling of expertise...collective voice...’. Sway document at [tiles.education.ed.ac.uk](https://tiles.education.ed.ac.uk). Has sections on policy, research sources etc. Includes downloadable ‘how are we doing’ PDF. See ‘About the Tool’ before starting, to get road map of how it all works.
  - It’s pick & mix, not ‘all you can eat’: pick what you need, don’t try to do it all. Tiles each have ‘using tool for the first time’ guide. Concludes with recordable pdf for recording your practice.

4. *Sylvia took the opportunity to extend particular appreciation to Alice Lister, now responsible, following the departure of Mandy R-C, for making today happen. Thanks also extended to SCILT team for their support during the day.*

## 5. A Fond Farewell

- Farewell to Mandy... Sylvia described Mandy as the smiling face of LaNGS for so long and such a great support for chairs throughout the years. Tributes by past chairs followed.
- Mandy: Thanks to everyone...I've always felt this to be a safe and friendly group; don't think there is a comparable body in other curricular areas. Chairs have all been so nice to work with; I have missed the team in the two months since I retired; still getting used to it. This is my 49<sup>th</sup> meeting; I only ever missed two; Have every faith in Alice as my successor...calm & capable. Thank you, all.

## 6. Updates:

- **Owen Griffiths, Scottish Government:**
  - Extended apologies from Education Scotland.
  - It is essential we continue to build on 1+2 success.
  - No 1+2 survey this year.
  - Next survey in spring 2023... Every 2 years from there.
  - No update re exchange programmes, but continuing to engage with UK govt re Turing etc and we hope to provide an Erasmus replacement/equivalent eventually.
  - This is the end of implementation cycle for 1+2. Huge shift in approach to ML achieved. So what next? The Cabinet Secretary confirmed last week how key she still considers ML learning. Looking at ways to continue to commit to that publicly. And to see where we go next.
  - Questions from floor followed.
  - Colleagues are welcome to contact Owen directly:  
[Owen.Griffiths@gov.scot](mailto:Owen.Griffiths@gov.scot)
- **Fhiona Mackay, SCILT:**
  - New SCILT [menu of PL](#) launches today; [open access primary workshops](#) also launched.
  - [Flyer of SCILT opportunities](#) throughout the year gone to all school inboxes.
  - Fhiona highlighted the success of the Languages Leadership Programme:
    - All courses have been well attended and received.
    - Nearly 40 new participants; over 50 'graduating' this session.
    - Thanks to all who have supported this, inc critical friends etc.
  - Language Ambassadors programme is relaunching: secondary schools.
- **Lisa Hanna, CISS:**
  - Revamped PL programme for Chinese exchange teachers. PL support has been delivered to VETs. Continued support for network of GTCS Mandarin teachers, led by focus group of practitioners.

- Discovering China courses for primary and secondary, expanded suite of NQs.
- Continuing to support Confucius Classroom hubs.
- New support portal on Glow.
- Chinese exchange teachers arriving in August. Hoping to establish more sustainable pipeline of Chinese teachers coming here.
- Fhiona: used to be about 60 teachers coming,
- Creation of a collaborative degree with a Chinese Uni which should help to grow capacity. It won't be restricted to those LAs with Confucius Classrooms and will take a few years to permeate.
- Immersion visits and scholarship experience to China hopefully running again in 2023, restrictions permitting.
- Confucius 10-year anniversary this year – activities and events across Scotland.

## 7. Just a Minute:

- Javier Ramos Linares, Consejería de Educación:
  - *See slides*
  - CPD opps & Instituto Cervantes course.
- Nathalie Korkmaz, Alliance Française.
  - Bookable space in Glasgow; library, resources available.
  - Nathalie moving on after summer, replacement coming.
  - Thanks and good luck to Nathalie from all at LANGS.
- Saskia Köglberger, Goethe Institut:
  - Goethe Institut currently looking into numbers for German in schools; teachers etc.
  - Group of German secondary teachers newly formed; meeting to discuss strategy. Would welcome collaboration from LAs. Individual teachers also welcome to contact directly.
- Ann Robertson/Bethan Owen, LANGS Lates:
  - Provides opportunities to get into research.
  - Would like to survey LaNGS members to see what the programme should be: looking for 'big ideas' – opening up to beyond the immediate languages community.
- Gerry McIntosh, British Council:
  - New information about Modern Language Assistants coming soon. It's known that LA funding is a key issue.
- Ukrainian support:
  - SCILT are organising a [drop-in session for Ukrainian families](#) 12-2pm every Wednesday during summer holidays: parents, children, networking etc.
  - Gerry will produce and circulate a list of key agencies to support Ukrainians. Key stakeholders are Association of Ukrainians in GB; Scottish Refugee Council.
  - Ann Robertson has produced [Ukrainian language packs](#): they have sound files etc, will share it via SCILT, Gerry et al.
- Liz Neil, British Council:

- We're working on a scheme to provide international opportunities for schools; a replacement for Connecting Classrooms.
- Liz leaving the British Council; thanks for everyone's support over the years.
- Thanks and good luck to Liz from all at LANGS.
- Caroline Cordier, Edinburgh College:
  - *See slides*
  - Comprehensive programme of funded support for language learners in all schools.
  - SWAP (Scottish Wider Access Programme).

**8. Next meetings:**

- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June

**9. Sylvia closed the meeting**

- Thanks to all who attended in-person and online.

**10. Adjourned for Mandy's Farewell Lunch.**