

**Minutes of LaNGS Meeting  
Held on Teams, Thursday, 10/03/2022**

**1. Welcome from the Chair**

- Sylvia Georgin welcomed everyone, and held out the prospect of a hybrid meeting next time.
- SG noted the retirement of Mandy Reeman-Clark, who is already much missed. Mandy will attend the June meeting and a farewell will take place then. SG introduced Alice Lister, who will take over Mandy's role and expressed her thanks and pleasure in having her as part of the team.
- No keynote speaker at the meeting. Instead, in an attempt to replicate the networking aspect of a LANGS meeting, discussion workshops to take place.
- SG spoke about the importance of our roles as leaders of languages and break out rooms took place to discuss 'our journey'.

**2. Round Table Discussions**

- We split into breakouts for our Round Table discussions, to consider –
  - What achievements are you proud of?
  - Where are you on the journey?
  - What are your next steps for recovery and renewal?
- Comments were fed back in a 'chat shower', which is available to view separately.
  - Angus Council has p/t Staff Tutor, Jen Read, who is building capacity of school staff, giving ownership to staff. Local Languages Champions continued to attend meetings throughout lockdown.
  - Review of Languages Leadership Programme: set up a panel of 'critical friends'. The Angus course was opened up to others – very popular. Registration is open for the next round.
  - (British Council) Language Assistant programme: particularly effective in disadvantaged areas – providing them with access to 'real foreigners'... "the sheer glamour and exotic presence of someone speaking French".
  - Proud to be part of the chain; and that 1+2 is the envy of other countries. 'Getting them young' heads off the alternative attitude of 'why dae we huv tae dae this?'
  - Proud of being part of saying, both to pupils *and* primary colleagues, 'You *can* do this.' Several people had seen a recent interview with Delia Smith, where she contrasted her approach ('You *can* do this...') with Masterchef, where a contestant puts their all into something, only to be told, 'Well, it's a bit greasy...' – and felt it was their role to be Delia, and not [what the late Terry Wogan used to call] the Screaming Costermonger! One contributor described 'only speaking Weedgie until age 15...but now I'm able to speak 6 languages' – thanks to language learning, and MLAs in particular.
  - Being part of a Short Life Working Group, looking at action points for PL and ITE.
  - Celebrating achievement: 'Alumni engagement' – in this instance, hooking up all present and former MLAs, hosts etc.
- This was a popular activity.

### 3. Education Scotland update:

- *Presentations from this section available to view separately.*
  
- Louise Glen:
  - LG extended a welcome to all new faces, who have joined LANGS since the last meeting.
  - News of the SG's response to the Muir report was shared.
  - Support for Local Authorities for 1+2 is still there; ES currently supporting a number of authorities with some strategic and operational matters.
  - Strategic Implementation Group: looking at where the stubborn barriers are, noting that these are mostly common to all.
  - The Languages Strategic Implementation group have been working on the BGE and its articulation with the Senior Phase, ITE and PL. Recommendations to follow, including strengthening links across clusters, including making best use of the additional 90 minutes built in for this.
  - Thematic Review: paused, in view of the impending restructuring.
  - German Group: a convened group of 25 PTs and German enthusiasts, discussing how to preserve German.
  - A report on the national picture is currently with SG.
  - Working with the other UK devolved nations, re the future of MFL learning: what can we learn from Wales, NI?
  
- Shona Hugh:
  - New online LLP course starting soon, with a face-to-face session on 17 & 18/06/2022; followed by a series of online modules over the course of the year.
  - GTCS recognition is embedded; including support for the 'critical friends' element.
  - Registration closes 25/04/2022; looking for practitioners with 4 or 5 years' experience, or equivalent.
  - There will be an information session at 16.00 on 22/03/2022...and probab;y another, if there is a demand.
  - Meantime we are expecting 60 colleagues to gain their accreditation at the end of the year's course just ending.
  
- Sylvia Warnecke (OU)/Bruce Eunson (ES):
  - Master's Level Scots Language & Culture Teacher CPD (implementation of 2015 SG policy) being piloted at Banff Academy – will then be offered to all.
  - Cross party Scots group, chaired by Emma Harper.
  - Scots is most popular overall L3, alongside BSL.
  - Objectives:
    - Supporting teachers in embedding Scots in their contexts
    - Scots - leading role in multilingual classroom teaching approach
    - Show Scots as a key literacy skill, including writing
    - Building new relationships across curricular areas
    - Introducing SQA awards

- Target Audience:
  - All in service teachers in Scotland, regardless of level, subject area, existing skills in Scots
- Based on the pre-existing OU/SCILT courses (in Spanish etc). No start date yet, but good feedback from pilot.

#### 4. Scottish Government update:

- Hélène Cornu:
  - Report on 1+2: good feedback from Local Authorities with overall picture of position: will go to ministers soon.
  - Another year (£1.2m total) of 1+2 funding coming to authorities.
  - UK Government's Turing Fund: now entering its second year: call for applications opens at the end of March.

[Break]

#### 5. SCILT/CISS update:

- Fhiona Mackay:
  - SCILT's Strategic Plan due out April/May.
  - Languages Week Scotland 2023 will be in w/c 30/01/2023; theme still to be decided, but perhaps to be something like 'Languages for Peace'. Any thoughts please pass them on.
  - Registration for the next OU/SCILT Languages for Primary course opening 16/03/2022; enrolment closes 08/09/2022; information sessions will be offered in May/June.
  - There will also be a freestanding workshops from the PL menu from March-June: will allow individual teachers to sign up.
  - Lisa Hanna is working with SQA on an analysis of MFL uptake; some good news stories to be shared at next LANGS meeting.
  - Online learning – we are continuing to offer online learning opportunities to schools (Arabic, BSL, Mandarin).
  - Please ensure you, and colleagues, are subscribed to the [SCILT weekly e-bulletin](#).
- Lisa Hanna:
  - Professional Learning – ongoing for all involved with learning and teaching of Mandarin, including Chinese Exchange Teachers, Virtual Exchange Teachers and GTCS teachers.
  - Hub support – Confucius has an active Teams presence: resources, drop-ins, online courses etc, for both primary and secondary.
  - There's a 10-year anniversary programme of events, competitions etc. coming. Meantime, there were 365 entries to this year's Chinese New Year competition, and an exhibition of entries coming.
  - GTCS teacher funding – we are now able to offer increased funding support for schools wishing to recruit GTCS registered teachers of Mandarin.
  - There is Turing funding available for mobilities. CISS can help with applications.

## 6. Just a Minute: updates from Cultural Organisations

- See recording of this section and related presentations, available separately.
- Gerry McIntosh, British Council:
  - Host an MLA 2022/3 campaign.
  - Benefits of hosting an MLA include resources and materials development, teacher CPD, promoting internationalism and a widening of horizons for pupils. Request deadline: 02/05/2022.
  - Remember: Assistants can be used in primary and can be shared between schools/clusters.
  - Webinar on this, presented by Gillian Campbell-Thow, on 16/03/2022 at 16.30.
  - <https://scotland.britishcouncil.org/>
- Javier Ramos Linares, Embajada de España en Reino Unido:
  - Immersion Courses on offer in Salamanca, July 2022.
  - Others to follow in the summer; 1 week course with option of a second week following the Camino de Santiago.
  - Face to face session in Glasgow 11/06/2022.
  - Online workshops at 10.00 on both 26/03/2022 and 14/05/2022.
  - Attractive series of promotional leaflets: *Español: A Million Reasons* available from website or from [asesoriaedimburgo.uk@educacion.gob.es](mailto:asesoriaedimburgo.uk@educacion.gob.es)
- Richard Tallaron: Languages for Education Europe:
  - LFEE is making a Turing bid on behalf of some authorities to send pupils to Spain, France, Germany; there is some (limited) capacity for a few more: deadline early May.
  - Offering a GTC accredited course for Secondary teachers online (this is the one that used to be held in Malaga), enabling colleagues to satisfy their residence requirement.
  - Developing International Projects for Schools course, to be held in Milan, last week in September, aiming to keep Scotland 'plugged in'.
  - <https://lfee.net/>
- Jane Byers, Scottish European Educational Trust:
  - Euroquiz: 30 authorities holding heats; 329 schools participating. Final will be on 13/06/2022, followed by an event at the Scottish Parliament.
  - Our World (film-making competition): 576 pupils from 46 schools, 20 authorities involved. Details of the Award Ceremony will follow.
  - Noting sad decease of much missed former Director of SEET, John Mulgrew. Leslie Brown (also Director of Child Services in East Lothian) will now chair.
  - <https://seet.org.uk/>
- Saskia Köglberger, Project Co-ordinator with Goethe Institut:
  - Young Goethe Ambassadors' Scheme: students/pupils visit other schools to promote German.

- Materials, courses available to suit all levels:  
<https://www.goethe.de/en/index.html>
- Gwen McCrossan, LaNGS Vice Chair:
  - World Gaelic week 21-27/03/2022:  
<https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot/?lang=en>

## **7. Conclusion; upcoming events etc**

- Sylvia GeorGIN:
  - DONM: Thursday, 09/06/2022, probably hybrid, including a send-off for Mandy R-C.
  - Thanks to Alice Lister for organising everything today so well.
  - Today has been another illustration of the importance of keeping this network together.

[Ends]