

What is languages mentoring?

The mentoring programme is designed to change young people's mindset about language learning. It aims to target and influence learners who have not yet made up their mind about choosing languages in the Senior Phase or those who may be reluctant to do so. SCILT will provide a survey to support schools to select mentees who will most benefit from this intervention. Mentees should therefore ideally be selected from the year group in which they will make their course choices for the senior phase (S2 or S3, depending on your context).

For schools, please be aware that this programme runs online so it is imperative that interested schools have an adequate technical set-up and reliable internet connection to allow for remote interactions between mentees and mentors.

Why do we have a languages mentoring programme?

The number of learners choosing to study a modern language to national qualification level has been falling in Scotland over the past 20 years. According to a [2020 report](#) by five key UK agencies, "We need urgent, concerted and coordinated action to address the critical situation for languages in the UK. If the UK's citizens had stronger skills in languages other than English, this would help make the UK more prosperous, productive, influential, innovative, knowledgeable, culturally richer, more socially cohesive, and healthier."

Scotland's Languages Explorers Programme has been set up to address this deficit by encouraging learners to see the personal and professional benefits of language learning. Mentors support and motivate learners in the BGE phase by sharing personal, recent experiences of their own language learning and university life. The aim in doing so is to promote reflection on intercultural competency and communication and the benefits of multilingualism.

The 6-week programme aims to:

- Support mentees to realise their languages potential and show how awareness of language builds confident, resilient individuals
- Raise aspirations to continue with language learning into the senior phase and beyond
- Encourage young people to develop a love of languages and cultures and a recognition of the value of languages for them