

Scotland's National Centre for Languages Newsletter

European Day of Languages
26 September



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
MODERN LANGUAGES
CENTRO EUROPEO DE
LOS LENGUAJES MODERNOS



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European Day of
Languages 2024



Welcome to the SCILT newsletter

Editorial

Welcome colleagues to the Winter 2024 edition of the SCILT newsletter.

As autumn gives way to winter, it's time to reflect on the past year at SCILT and celebrate all that languages offer as gateways to the world, bridges between cultures and the secret ingredient that turns classrooms into global hubs of curiosity.

This year's online *Show and Tell* for early years practitioners proved that Scotland's teachers are magical innovators. From songs to storytelling, the event showcased creative ways to nurture young multilingual speakers. And it wasn't just about puppets and posters—it was a joyous exchange of ideas that left us all inspired, and reminded us why Scotland's educators are second to none.

June brought the Euroquiz final and the premiere of the *Our World* filmmaking competition, SCILT's highlights of the summer. Euroquiz tested young minds with questions on European culture, proving that learning can be an adrenaline rush! Meanwhile, budding filmmakers wowed audiences by tackling global issues through languages, inspiring us all to think big.

Our *Multilingualism through Art* workshop painted a vibrant picture of how languages enrich classrooms. Teachers investigated creativity through the theme "*Exploring Languages in Colour*", proving that even conjugating verbs is exciting with a paintbrush in hand.

In May and October, SCILT and the Institute of Physics explored the shared desire for high-quality, subject-specific professional learning, while June's French cross-sector forum set the stage for an inspiring future for French teaching in Scotland. The takeaway? Languages truly belong everywhere.

SCILT proudly celebrated a record-breaking year for the Scottish Languages Employability Award, and the partnerships and exchanges flourishing in schools across the country. From trips to Spain to Chinese festivals, learners have been embracing intercultural connections and proving languages are for life, not just classrooms. A five-year-old encapsulated it perfectly when she declared, "I do speak French—I just don't know all the words...yet!"

As we gear up for 2025, SCILT remains committed to ensuring every child in Scotland discovers the joy of languages. Yes, championing languages requires creativity, persistence, and strong coffee, but the rewards are immeasurable. When a young person realises they can communicate with someone from another culture, it's a spark that could light a lifetime.

To Scotland's language educators: keep singing, sharing, and painting multilingual masterpieces. You're planting seeds of curiosity and connection in a world that needs them more than ever.

Here's to another year of linguistic adventures—*vivent les langues!*



Fhiona Mackay, Director

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Languages beyond school

At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.



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Disclaimer - SCILT's newsletter is published twice a year and contains contributions from schools, local authorities and cultural organisations. It provides a forum for contributors to share some of the interesting work being carried out by the languages community across Scotland. SCILT, however, does not necessarily endorse or promote the practice described in these pages.

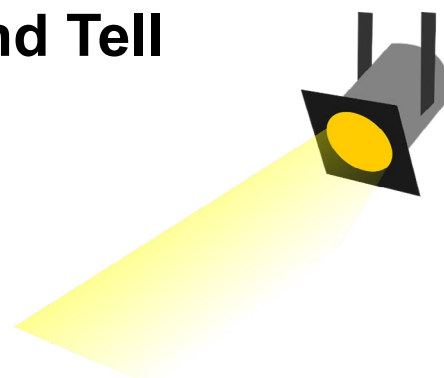
SCILT News

Early Years and Primary Show and Tell

Earlier this year SCILT hosted an online Show and Tell event for practitioners working in primary schools and early years settings to share aspects of their practice. This was the first time we had held such an event and were excited to provide a platform for practitioners to showcase the wonderful work they're doing to support language learning in the classroom. Those in attendance heard from a diverse range of practitioners working at various stages on the teaching continuum. These included input from a probationer teacher based in North Lanarkshire, and a former teacher who is now a lecturer at Pepperdine University in California!

In three or seven minute slots, presenters shared snippets of practice or a resource they found particularly useful. A variety of themes and resources were discussed, all suitable for primary learners. One practitioner was keen to show how they had adopted a CLIL approach with great success

further up the school, making good use of the [ELAPSE](#) resource on the LFEE website. Staying in the upper school, we also heard how colourful semantics was used effectively to support P7 learners of Spanish in an Aberdeenshire school. A few practitioners were keen to share their top tips, along with tried and tested ideas on how to introduce and embed languages into the primary classroom, from early through to first level. Teaching languages at early level was another key theme of the day. We heard about one teacher's language learning highlights in P1, and how another used a bilingual storybook to support young learners learning French at a school in Falkirk. To round off the day, Pepperdine's lecturer shared some insights into her research that focuses on foreign languages in early childhood, which was fascinating! Overall, it was truly a feast of knowledge for those in attendance and a real celebration of language learning in the primary school!



Due to the success of this event, we plan to organise another Show and Tell for primary and early years practitioners in June 2025. If you would like to get involved, let us know. We'd love to hear from you! Please contact [SCILT](#) to register your interest.

Karen Faulds, SCILT

Image by [Isi Dixon](#) on Pixabay



Exciting events for SCILT

In June 2024, SCILT was delighted to host the culmination of two key events on the Scottish languages calendar – the final of Euroquiz 2024 and the premier of the Our World film-making competition.

Having been successfully run by the Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET) for many years, SCILT was asked in April this year to help deliver the events associated with these important initiatives.

On 10 June 2024 the final of Euroquiz took place in the impressive surroundings of McEwan Hall at the University of Edinburgh. From 560 schools who took part over the year, 30 schools made it to the final to showcase their learning about languages, history, geography, culture and European affairs, and well as their team-working skills.

After a nail-biting final round, our quizmaster Mark Pentleton announced

the winners as George Watson's College in Edinburgh, with pupils from St Fillan's Primary in Glasgow taking second place and pupils from Strathblane Primary in Stirling Council following closely behind in third.

Just two days later the glitzy premier of Our World took place at the offices of Brodies LLP in Glasgow. After creating storyboards and attending filmmaking workshops, learners from 23 secondary schools had the chance to see their short films displayed on the big screen in an Oscars-style ceremony. With over 1000 pupils entering this year, the young people who reached the premier should be very proud of their achievement. Congratulations to the winning teams from Clydevew Academy, Park School, Prestwick Academy, Ardrrossan Academy, Thurso High, Bellahouston Academy and The Glasgow Academy!

Alice Lister, SCILT



Exploring languages in colour at The Ramshorn

In September, the Multilingualism through Art (MtA) team got together to host an in-person workshop at SCILT's Ramshorn building in Glasgow. The theme of the workshop was exploring languages in colour and the purpose was to investigate creative ways in which to support languages, art, and multilingualism in the classroom. Together we examined the integration of art within a languages context that includes all languages, taking into account aspects of a multi/translingual framework. We also explored the use of an arts-based framework, looking at features such as: art as content, art as method, art as tool and artistic thinking. We discovered ways in which to use colour as a mediating space for exploring language and culture. The creativity in the room was palpable!

Jane Catlin, Teaching Fellow at Strathclyde's Institute of Education, led the practical activity that focused on colour, the process of mark making, dialogue and language. Participants worked in groups to explore with paint the

various shades and tones of one colour only. They were invited to consider what associations they could make with those colours, both from a personal and cultural perspective, and were encouraged to share this creatively on a blank canvas. Following this, they moved and worked with other colours and added to other canvases on the tables. During the activity, we asked participants to consider their own language repertoires. We encouraged them to think about any linguistic connections they could make between colours and languages and invited them to add words and phrases in other known languages to the canvases.

This workshop highlighted not only the use of art as a vehicle to support all language learning but also the interdisciplinary nature of the approach. Many attendees commented on how they would be designing more cross-curricular learning experiences to include some of the activities shared, with one commenting:

"The activities mentioned helped me to think of ways that I can involve EAL learners in a way that helps them to access their mother tongue in the classroom and share their experiences in a more genuine way for them."

Following the success of the in-person workshop, we held an online version in October to enable educators from across Scotland to engage in this professional learning opportunity with the MtA team.

Coming soon!

We will be launching Multilingualism Live soon which will involve the MtA team delivering a live lesson online directly into your classroom. Keep an eye on the [SCILT e-bulletin](#) for more information.

To find out more about projects the MtA Team have been involved in, and to access the digital resource pack, visit the [SCILT website](#).

Karen Faulds, SCILT

Future directions for subject-specific professional learning

This year, SCILT has hosted two events in partnership with the Institute of Physics (IoP) Scotland. The first at The Ramshorn in May, the second on Teams in October. Together, we welcomed teachers, practitioners and educators from around the country, as well as representatives from the EIS, GTCS and Education Scotland to our in-person and online professional discussion spaces.

The discussions focused on the future directions for subject-specific professional learning for teachers. Our timing was fortuitous, with our first engagement coinciding with the publication of the 'Curriculum Thematic Report 2022-23' by Education Scotland. This report presented HM Inspectors' professional view of curriculum design in Scotland, drawing on evidence gathered from 50 schools and settings from all 32 of Scotland's local authorities.

"Overall, staff are committed to undertaking professional learning to improve the curriculum. They would welcome more access to high-quality, subject specific professional learning to ensure curriculum programmes are based on the most up-to-date research and knowledge." (Education Scotland, 2024: p.23)

Our events addressed this finding head-on by exploring provocations proposed by our two expert speakers, Stuart Farmer, Learning and Skills Manager for IoP Scotland and Fhiona MacKay, Director of SCILT.

"Many teachers work in small department or stage teams with little access to others teaching the same subjects," Stuart explained. "This can restrict the opportunities for teachers to talk about, plan with, or observe other teachers teaching the same subject topics on a routine basis."

Fhiona described the positive impacts of some recent CLPL opportunities supported by SCILT eg the collaborative and contextualised work on climate change through Eco Learning Partners; the development of play-based pedagogy in early years through a professional learning partnership with a teaching artist; and the building of languages education

leadership capacity nationwide through Scotland's Languages Leadership Programme.

"What works is generic learning explored through a subject specific lens," she suggested. "In other words, helping teachers see what a particular area of the curriculum brings to the development of that big picture and how the development of the professional skills laid out in the standards has impact on the particular area on which they are focusing."

Looking to the future, our speakers posed two reflective questions:

1. What is needed to ensure subject specific professional learning is available and accessible to all Scottish teachers?
2. In contexts across the education system, who could help us make these changes in reality? Identify some next steps for them.

Subject specific professional learning is SCILT's bread and butter, but accessibility is an important issue for the teaching profession as a whole, as ultimately it improves the quality of the teaching and learning in all curricular subjects.

To keep the conversation going, add your thoughts to our [Padlet](#).

For more information:

- [Subjects Matter IOP December 2020](#)
- [Subjects Matter for Scotland An Evidence Paper](#)
- [National thematic report on the evaluation of curriculum design in Scotland](#)

Lynne Jones, SCILT

Image by [Rama Krishna Karumanchi](#) on Pixabay



The Future of French en Écosse forum

On 24 June 2024, SCILT, in conjunction with the University of Strathclyde Department of French, held the first of what will hopefully become an annual event; a free cross-sector forum discussing present questions and future plans around the teaching of French in secondary and tertiary education.

The event was planned with three key objectives:

- to take stock of the situation in Scotland across the secondary education and higher education sectors
- to offer a platform to showcase initiatives looking to promote language learning and French in particular
- to share experiences and good practice amongst secondary school and university teachers

To this end a programme was planned consisting of two parallel themes: strategy and support, and curriculum and culture. Three workshops were

offered in each strand, and the aim was for each one to be presented by at least one secondary and one college/university practitioner. This allowed for meaningful cross-sector sharing of information and good practice, and the development of greater mutual understanding, since partnership is key to finding a way forward.

That partnership extended beyond Scotland; in addition to Scottish-based organisations the Institut Français d'Écosse, the Alliance Française, the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland, the British Council and the French Film Society, the event was enriched by input from representatives of the Université de Rennes and the Academic Region of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

Through panel discussion, workshops, introductions from Charlotte Hyvernaud (Institut Français d'Écosse) and Professor David Murphy (University of Strathclyde), a surprise visit from French ex-international footballer Lilian Thuram and networking over a fantastic lunch, participants at this fully-booked event

listened to, shared about and discussed a positive way forward in the teaching of French in Scotland.

Plans are already underway for a 2025 forum – if you came along this year, or if you wish you had, watch this space! If you would be interested in participating by showcasing good practice in cross-sector working that you are involved in, please contact [Sheena Bell](#) or [Cedric Moreau](#).

Sheena Bell, SCILT



Languages Week Scotland 2025

"The best way to predict your future is to create it." – Abraham Lincoln

Join us for Languages Week Scotland 2025! The week runs from 3 - 7 February and the theme is Our Multilingual Futures. It will be a chance to celebrate language learning and multilingualism in Scotland and its crucial role in our socially and ethically complex world. Look out for events taking place across Scotland for families, adults, and schools!

As our society and economy become increasingly global, knowing, learning and using more than one language, together with the associated meta-skills, will be vital; those who develop and grow their languages capacity will have an important role to play in Scotland's future.

Everyone is welcome to participate in Languages Week Scotland, including educational establishments, community-based groups, arts and sports organisations, social enterprises, and businesses of all sizes. [Visit our website](#) and follow the hashtag #ScotlandLovesLanguages on social media to find out what's happening and to join in!

If you're planning an event or creating any resources, we would love to share this so let us know by [dropping us an email](#).

SCILT has been tasked by the Scottish Government to deliver Languages Week Scotland.

Sarah Macfarlane, SCILT



Scottish Languages Employability Award

“Employers and schools need to develop strong two way partnerships – partnerships that deliver improvements to teaching and learning and bring real-life context into the classroom.”

- **Developing the Young Workforce** (Scottish Government, 2014)

In our latest round of Scottish Languages Employability Award verification just before the summer holidays, we were delighted to receive our highest number of submissions so far! Congratulations to the following schools who received an award:

- five bronze (Boroughmuir High School, Cults Academy, Drummond Community High School, Holy Rood High School and Westhill Academy)
- two silver (Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School and Wester Hailes Education Centre)
- six gold (Alva Academy, Elgin Academy, Kirkintilloch High School, Lochaber High School, Milne's High School and Stirling High School)

We are constantly impressed by the quality and variety of employability projects that schools, working with business partners, organise, and the latest round proved to be no exception! They reflect high-quality and inspiring employability input in a variety of languages, across primary and secondary sectors and covering areas ranging from first aid and emergency skills to baking, tourism and renewables, through projects, careers events and ongoing partnerships. Case studies of these and all previous award winners are on the main [SLEA webpage](#).

In 2023-24, as well as offering the original SLEA and the new [SLEA Local](#) (an award recognising cluster work around employability), we launched the [SLEA Green](#), focusing on partnerships with a global citizenship/sustainability focus. We would love to work with a school or schools to run a pilot of this award – could that be you? If you have, or would like to develop, a project with a third sector organisation or similar then please get in touch! Email [Sheena Bell](#) for more information.

Our next project will be developing a branch of the SLEA tree to reward multilingualism-focused partnership activities in schools – watch this space!

Sheena Bell, SCILT



**SCOTTISH
LANGUAGES
EMPLOYABILITY
AWARD**

DUAIS FASTADH
CÀNAINÉAN NA H-ALBA



**SCOTTISH
LANGUAGES
EMPLOYABILITY
AWARD**

DUAIS FASTADH
CÀNAINÉAN NA H-ALBA
LOCAL - IONADAIL



**SCOTTISH
LANGUAGES
EMPLOYABILITY
AWARD**

DUAIS FASTADH
CÀNAINÉAN NA H-ALBA
GREEN - UAINÉ

Teachers of German in Scotland

The start of this session saw the launch of the Teachers of German in Scotland (TOGS) network, created with the aim of establishing a wider professional learning community around German in Scotland.

Building on the strong foundations established by the national strategy group for German, TOGS is open to all practitioners from primary and secondary school backgrounds who teach – or are interested in teaching – German in their context.

It is no secret that presentation numbers in German national qualifications have been dropping slowly for some time, not just in Scotland but across the UK. At the same time, with the fourth largest economy in the world, Germany continues to be the UK's second largest trading partner behind the USA. As a result, German remains the most sought-after language by UK employers. But if you are one of Scotland's Germanists, you already know this.

The TOGS network has been set up to offer a platform for practitioners to share practice, ideas, experiences and resources. Across Scotland, there are areas of excellent practice and strong uptake in German – there are also areas where German teachers fly solo. This network offers a space for people to come together and support each other professionally.

The number of responses to this network show what a committed bunch Scotland's German teachers are! The network will meet once per term on Glow Teams and we have launched a German poster competition to raise the profile of German. If you would like to join us, please email [SCILT](mailto:scilt@scilt.org.uk) and we will add you to our TOGS mailing list.

Interested in the German poster competition? Find out more [on our website](#).

Suzanne Ritchie, SCILT



Das bedeutet Deutsch für mich!

POSTER COMPETITION 2024-2025

- Design a poster, including as much German language as you can, to show what the German-speaking world means to you.
- Open to everyone, from absolute beginners to bilinguals.
- Use the title **Das bedeutet Deutsch für mich!**
- Individual or group entries are welcome. Group entries: use the title **Das bedeutet Deutsch für uns!**
- Judging categories: P1-4, P5-7, S1-3, S4-6.
- Closing date is **Friday 28th February 2025**.

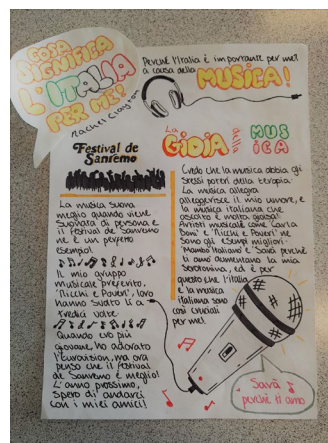
Teachers of Italian in Scotland

Following its launch just under a year ago, the network for Teachers of Italian in Scotland (TOIIS) continues to grow, now boasting almost one hundred members from schools across the country.

As a first event in the spring of 2024, teachers asked their learners to design a poster, based on the remit *Cosa significa l'Italia per me/noi*. The participants rose to the challenge, with a total of 130 entries received from eleven schools. From food to football, fashion to cars, architecture to holidays, there was immense variety of content in the high-quality range of posters, leaving the judging panel with the almost impossible task of selecting the winning entries. After much deliberation, the winners were confirmed as Virginia (P1-3 category), Hudson (P5-7), Halina (S1-3) and Rachel (S4-6). Each of the winners

received an authentic Italian Easter egg, kindly provided by Celino's Delicatessen, Glasgow. The [poster gallery](#) can be viewed on the SCILT website.

The coming year promises to be just as exciting for TOIIS, as we continue to explore ways to support teachers with the delivery of Italian alongside other languages, and to facilitate the sharing of ideas and resources. Members of the group can look forward to the first in a series of Italian-focused online professional learning events, as well as the opportunity to get their learners involved in *Calciamo*, an exciting new interdisciplinary competition combining Italian language with football and physical education. In addition, there will be online moderation activity, featuring input from SQA markers and the opportunity to discuss standards.



If you are a current or soon-to-be registered teacher of Italian in Scotland, and you would like to join the TOIIS network, please contact [Dr Paul Hare](#) who is both Professional Development Officer at SCILT and Teaching Fellow in Italian at the University of Strathclyde.

Dr Paul Hare, SCILT

European Day of Languages

Dunbar Primary School

The P6 children at Dunbar Primary led a European Day of Languages assembly. They celebrated the many languages spoken in our school, ran a quiz and led the singing of a French number song.

In ICT they chose European countries to research and in art recorded ways in which languages open the door to future careers.

Later in the month they are looking forward to welcoming visitors from Lignieres as we continue the twinning link between the two towns which spans over 50 years.

Lucy Hare, Dunbar Primary School



Lasswade High School

Lasswade High School came together to celebrate European Day of Languages, with a special focus on the vibrant Spanish language.

Our Mandarin teachers made an appearance in traditional Spanish attire, wearing a badge on their chest that showcased their linguistic skill: fluent Mandarin. This was not only a celebration of linguistic diversity but also a tribute to cultural integration.

In the classroom, we encouraged students to unleash their creativity by designing posters themed around the Spanish language. Each poster was an exploration of the unique charm of Spanish and a display of their passion for language learning.

We have displayed the students' impressive poster creations on the school walls, allowing the entire campus to feel the charm of the language day event. At the same time, we will also showcase these photos on the school bulletin board and social media, so more people can feel the beauty of this day.

After the event, we took photos of the students' poster creations, capturing their creativity and effort. We also took a group photo of all the language teachers to thank them for their contribution to language education.

Thank you to all the teachers and students who participated in and supported this event; it's your involvement that made this day so special. Let's look forward to the next language day event and continue to sail in the ocean of languages!

Ran Zhang, Lasswade High School

St Mungo's High School

On Thursday 26 September, St Mungo's RC High School in Falkirk proudly celebrated European Day of Languages. Throughout the week, S1 and S2 students engaged with the Languages Challenge app, created for the European Day of Languages 2024, with many successfully completing the Secret Agent Challenge.

Our staff joined in on the fun by participating in a dress-up activity, with each department representing a different European country. The results were fantastic, and some departments even decorated their corridors to reflect their assigned country!

In the morning, all S3 students embarked on a school-wide treasure hunt focused on the diverse languages, cultures, and histories of European countries.

All S1 pupils gathered in the assembly hall for a series of activities celebrating European Day of Languages. They learned why this day is important and how valuable it is to learn a new language. Pupils worked together to build famous European landmarks out of Play-Doh, used their code-switching skills to identify numbers in various languages (including French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish), and competed in a house quiz. All S1 pupils also submitted an entry for the European Day of Languages 2025 t-shirt contest.

It was a fantastic day, filled with enthusiasm and celebration of European languages, enjoyed by both pupils and staff!

Jillian Doherty, St Mungo's RC High School



Celebrating with French extravaganzas in Scotland!

La Jolie Ronde's talented Scottish teachers, Izzie Hogg and Sandra Kasperek, pulled out all the stops to celebrate the European Day of Languages this year, creating memorable and engaging events for their pupils.

In Aberdeen, Izzie hosted a lively French Club extravaganza, bringing together her young learners for a week of fun-filled activities. The children immersed themselves in French culture and language through singing and dancing to catchy French songs, combining music with new vocabulary to make learning both lively and memorable. Language games like *Jacques a dit* and storytelling helped the children pick up key phrases while having a great time. Authentic French treats from a local patisserie topped

off the events! Izzie was also invited to talk about the richness of language diversity on her local radio station ShmuFM.

Meanwhile, Sandra in Livingston ran a heartwarming competition with her online pupils, challenging them to describe their favourite soft toy in French. This activity brought out the creativity and enthusiasm in each pupil, as they crafted heartfelt and imaginative descriptions. Sandra was thrilled by the variety of unique entries, reflecting the children's budding language skills and their connection to French. She said: "Reading through and listening to each entry was such an enjoyable and rewarding experience for me. It was wonderful to see how each child brought their personality and flair to the challenge!"

A parent of two of the winners said: "Luca and Elisa had such good fun coming up with ideas about what their teddies could be doing and then were so keen to find a way to say it in French. It's such a fantastic way to motivate kids to learn."

We are incredibly proud of Izzie, Sandra, and all the Scottish children who took part. Their enthusiasm and passion for French is inspiring! These events remind us of the joy that language learning brings and how it connects us across cultures.

Mala Henry, La Jolie Ronde



News from local authorities

A-E-G and Aberdeenshire Partnership

Three Aberdeenshire schools are collaborating with the Albrecht-Ernst-Gymnasium (A-E-G) in Oettingen, Germany to establish a language and cultural partnership.

Marco Hüttinger, Head of English at the A-E-G in Oettingen, contacted Aberdeenshire Council with the hope of establishing a partnership with its schools. Having enjoyed a year in Aberdeenshire in the late 1990s as a Language Assistant in Peterhead and Ellon, Marco was keen to enable his students to experience Aberdeenshire and Scotland, and “give something back to Aberdeenshire and Scotland, too, since my year teaching in Aberdeenshire was a fantastic experience, which was made possible by Aberdeenshire Council”.

In its inaugural year, the partnership has seen teachers and young people from Inverurie Academy, The Gordon Schools in Huntly, and Turriff Academy share videos and exchange letters with the A-E-G Oettingen. Regarding the benefits of the partnership, Joanna Phelan, modern languages teacher at Turriff Academy says: “It’s great to have a link with a real school. When teaching about schools in Germany I now have a real example to show them. Having a pen pal in Germany gives the pupils more enthusiasm to learn the language. They loved receiving their pen pal letters. They liked that they were writing to a real person - rather than a theoretical exercise”.

In collaboration with learners, teachers are now planning how to develop the

partnership in its second year and beyond. Marco Hüttinger shared his vision for the future of the partnership: “...creating a permanent and mutually beneficial partnership that consists of different ‘pillars’: little projects, teacher exchange, individual and group exchange, maybe even work experience opportunities for older students”.

Claire Burt, Banchory Academy



How I met SCILT

Hi! My name is Maria Concetta, and I am a languages teacher, and a PhD student based in Spain. I would like to tell you how I met SCILT.

Back in 2019 I Googled ‘linguistics or languages events in London’. I discovered an event that takes place every year in November, The Language Show, which has three days of amazing conferences, insightful lectures and engaging classes all about teaching and learning languages. There, I discovered Bilingualism Matters, a research and information centre established at the University of Edinburgh which I fell in love with and decided I would most definitely visit in the future.

Finally, this year, in March, I undertook a one-month research residency at the University of Edinburgh, thanks to an Erasmus grant. When there, I had the opportunity to interview the founder of Bilingualism Matters, Antonella Sorace, and her partner Katarzyna Przybycien.

Through Kat – now a cherished friend, not just a professional contact – I was put in touch with Sheena Bell, a professional development officer at SCILT, who was very kind to me and suggested I interview her. Therefore, in April I visited Glasgow, and SCILT’s impressive office in The Ramshorn, a converted church building. Sheena treated me with exceptional kindness, showing me her place of work, answering all my questions and going above and beyond to explain exactly what SCILT is and her job role there.

Apart from obvious professional development, I learnt about Scotland and met some wonderful people. So, thank you to the Highland cows, the Scott Monument, the Scotch eggs, the Ramshorn and the Firth of Forth... I will never forget you and I can’t wait to visit you again!!

Maria Concetta Brigandi

Languages at Stirling High School

We have been busy with all things language learning at Stirling High School. In June, a group of senior pupils had the opportunity to go on a trip to Barcelona. Thirty young people visited Camp Nou, Park Guell and la Sagrada Familia amongst other things. Pupils were also able to try typical Spanish food and soak up the culture, as well as the sunshine.

We were also lucky enough to welcome our new S1 cohort for a Mandarin transition day in June. Pupils enjoyed various activities, which were mostly led by our senior pupils, such as Tai Chi, Chinese character writing and a Lion Dance. This was a great opportunity for our young people to get excited about learning Mandarin, and for us as language teachers to start building relationships with our new classes.

In addition, more recently, our Mandarin pupils celebrated the Mid-Autumn festival. Young people learned about the traditions of the festival and had the chance to make delicious Moon Cakes with the Health and Food Tech department.

Finally, we are enjoying getting to know our new classes, particularly our new S1s, who are showing great enthusiasm and flare for language learning!

Lynn Jamieson, Stirling High School



P1 assembly at Giffnock Primary

Inspired by the French book, *Pop Mange De Toutes Les Couleurs*, the P1s at Giffnock Primary School decided they wanted to re-enact the story for their families as part of their assembly.

When planning our assembly, we took the lead from the book, which provided an engaging context for learning about colours in French. As part of our Big Picture Planning, the children also expressed an interest in learning about French art and food. In the lead up to the assembly we took an IDL approach focusing on food, art, digital technologies and music. Pupils were filmed acting out Pop's story in the target language and the video was shown at the assembly along with live performances of French songs. After the assembly the guests were invited to our classrooms to enjoy an art exhibition

and a French themed café where the children took their family members' orders and served them before enjoying the food and drinks together.

It was a lovely day enjoyed by the pupils and their families. The pupils shared their experiences of learning a language on Seesaw. M said, "I liked learning French because languages are important, for example if you visited another country or moved to another country then you would be able to say hello to people and they might understand you." R said, "I liked learning about French because you can say hello to people in another language. I can say bonjour."

It has shaped the way we will plan assemblies in P1 in the future and we can't wait for our next language themed

adventure, where we plan to take our pupils into the local community to share their learning.

Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Adams, Giffnock Primary School



News from our partners

Fais ton cinéma



The *Concours de la francophonie* has been organised by the Institut français d'Écosse every year since its creation in 2016.

There will be two competitions in the 10th edition:

- one for primary pupils
- one for secondary pupils

For the first time the Institut français d'Écosse is working with the French Film Festival UK (FFF UK) Learning Programme, which offers a selection of four films free of charge to all schools every autumn. All primary and secondary schools in Scotland offering French **and** participating in the FFF UK Learning Programme will be eligible to enter the *Concours de la francophonie*.

Objectives

The competition aims to promote French language learning through a French class group project, and to encourage students and teachers to celebrate the French-speaking world and its culture.

Categories and format

There are four categories for entries:

Primary

- P1-4
- P5-7

Primary schools submit a video of a maximum length of three minutes in which students express their opinions in French on the film they have watched in class.

Secondary

- S1-3
- S4-6

Secondary schools must submit a high-quality video of a maximum length of four minutes in which students express their opinions in French about the film they have watched in class.

Theme

The theme for the 2025 competition is 'Fais ton cinéma'.

The competition relates to the four films offered free of charge to primary and secondary schools through the FFF UK Learning Programme 2024:

- Drôles d'oiseaux (Funny Birds) by Charlie Belin (2022)
- Mystère (Vicky and Her Mystery) by Denis Imbert (2020)
- La Petite Bande (The Little Gang) by Pierre Salvadori (2022)
- Divertimento by Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar (2022)

For more information on the programme contact the [French Film Festival UK](#).

Rules for entry

Entries are to be submitted no later than 10 January 2025.

Find the complete guidelines on the [Institut français d'Écosse website](#).

Sylvie Charlotte Hyvernaud Ning, Institut français d'Écosse

Jacqueline Munro-Lafon essay prize 2024

The Franco-Scottish Society was delighted to run the Jacqueline Munro-Lafon essay prize again in 2024. The Society welcomed SCILT's continued collaboration, and the Alliance Française joined the other two partners as organisers and promoters of the prize. As before, SCILT staff read all the entries and produced the shortlist. Many thanks are owed to them and to the three judges, Catherine Hare, Sylvain Blanche and Deborah Rutherford who selected the final three prize-winners.

The 2024 topic was 'La musique mérite d'être la seconde langue obligatoire de toutes les écoles du monde'. It attracted interest from nine schools, mostly from the central belt, but including three

schools from Aberdeen: Robert Gordon's College, Albyn School and Aberdeen Grammar School. This year's winner was Emma Tennant of George Watson's College, Edinburgh, whose prize of £500 was given by the Franco-Scottish Society. The runners up were Robyn Wilkin of Bishopbriggs Academy and Amelia Morley of Bearsden Academy: their prizes of £100 each were given by SCILT, who also provided the trophy.

A small and informal presentation ceremony was organised by George Watson's College on Wednesday 28 August. Philip Bennett presented the trophy and certificate to the first prize winner, Emma Tennant. The ceremony was attended by Mr Gordon Boyd,

Head of Senior School, and Mrs Emilie Robertson from the French department.

Philip Bennett, Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland



Keeping UK-German links alive: opportunities for schools and young people

Whether you are new to school exchanges, or have organised projects for 20 years, we are delighted to support your partnership at whatever stage. We are dedicated to bringing young people together and promoting cultural links and partnerships.

German pupil courses

This summer, pupils from across the UK participated in our [German pupil courses](#). The pupils spent two weeks in Germany, and whilst there attended language lessons, experienced daily life through group activities, and took part in cultural excursions to medieval towns and museums. One Scottish pupil recalled their time in Germany as "my favourite trip ever. I now have a much deeper understanding of the German language and culture. It was truly a life-changing experience."

Applications for the [German pupil courses](#) will open in January 2025. The courses are for S3 or S5 pupils who have been learning German for at least two years.

Opportunities for teachers

German teachers can apply to be a [German pupil course group leader](#) and accompany a group of pupils to Germany. One Scottish group leader described the experience as "a joy to support such a great group of young people... it was inspiring to experience their openness to German life and culture and to see them growing in confidence."

You can [register your interest](#) to be informed when applications open.

Supporting school and youth partnerships

This year we have offered bilateral partner-finding and professional development [seminars for teachers and youth leaders](#). These seminars generated linking opportunities within a framework to develop international activities and create whole school/community impact.

We also offer [funding opportunities](#) and [tailored advice](#) on UK-German activities for schools and youth groups.

Keep in touch

You can sign-up to our [newsletter](#) and follow us on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to find out more about our upcoming opportunities.

Eilidh Reid, UK-German Connection



Language Trends Scotland: Research into the teaching and learning of modern languages

British Council Scotland launched the first-ever [Language Trends Scotland](#) surveys in August.

Language Trends Scotland is an in-depth survey for all primary and secondary schools across the country. The research will provide an independent overview of the teaching of modern languages in Scotland.

The Language Trends series shows general shifts in data and seeks to provide a springboard for teachers, school leaders, academics, inspectors, policymakers, school pupils, and the public to consider aspects of language learning more deeply.

We were delighted that many primary, secondary and independent schools

across Scotland participated in the survey. We are now busy collating responses ahead of launching the full report at the end of January, ahead of Languages Week Scotland 2025. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) and education [newsletter](#) for the report launch and associated events.

Language Trends Scotland joins a suite of language trends research conducted across the UK, and by taking the survey you have contributed to a wealth of data that spans over two decades, offering unique insights into the evolution of language education across the UK.

Find out more about the [British Council's Language Trends research](#).

If you'd like to keep up to date with our education work at British Council Scotland, please sign up to our [newsletter](#).

Jane Halstead, British Council Scotland



LFFE Europe Turing projects

In 2023, LFFE Europe applied for a Turing grant on behalf of seven Scottish schools: five primary schools in Glasgow, Douglas Academy in East Dunbartonshire and Castlebrae High School in Edinburgh. We were seeking funding for a total of 150 mobilities across two projects: Coastal Cities, working with schools in l'Académie de Nice in France and the Consejería de Valencia in Spain; and The Sound of Diversity, partnering with a music school near the city of Valencia, Spain.

We were successful in our application and administrative issues notwithstanding, we went ahead with our two exciting projects.

Coastal Cities

The proposal for the five primary schools and one secondary sought to meet needs and develop key skills in social studies and languages within the Scottish curriculum, and improve access and attainment in languages and social studies for learners most impacted by socio and economic disadvantage. It linked schools in Scotland, Spain and

France to explore their cities, exchange information on similar geographical contexts and examine the history of diverse communities living by the sea.

The Sound of Diversity

This proposal sought to build on existing capacity and cooperation with a UNESCO partner school in Valencia to offer learners in Scotland the opportunity to improve chances and attainment at National 5 and Higher level in the Scottish music examination through international cooperation to improve musical and linguistic skills and knowledge.

In total, across the two projects 130 learners and 20 teachers travelled to France and Spain – for periods varying between five and eight days. Every month, virtual exchanges were made between the schools.

Impact

The young people who took part in The Sound of Diversity acquired valuable experience and knowledge collaborating with peers and performing in new spaces



to new audiences. They improved their language and their musical skills in the preparation, rehearsal and delivery of performances. You can [watch one of the concerts](#) online.

Participants in Coastal Cities gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of French and Spanish cultures, traditions and daily life. Most secondary school learners decided to take up a language in the senior phase, while primary school pupils were able to play games in the playground with their French peers. You can [watch a video](#) of their giant outdoor ceilidh on X.

Conclusion

Despite the complexity of the Turing Scheme application and the logistical challenges of organising the mobilities, the success of the projects is best expressed by the pupils who took part: "It was the best thing we have done in the whole of school!"

Richard Tallaron, LFFE Europe

Now we're talking: e-Sgoil's language expansion

The 2024-25 session sees a number of continuing languages offers as well as some exciting new developments from e-Sgoil.

Misneachd, Gaelic (Learners) and NQ classes for pupils and adults have had a strong start this year with over 100 pupils in primary and 80 learners at NQ level engaged with the programmes. Term 2 sees expansion in the provision with an offer of art for Gaelic Medium pupils.

Following on the success of last year, which saw learners from across 16 local authorities engage with Japanese taster sessions, e-Sgoil are happy to be working with the University of Edinburgh once again to bring both taster and post-beginner sessions to pupils across Scotland. Find out more and sign up [via our website](#).

Term 1 saw a live Scotland's Assembly broadcast from Paris as

part of European Day of Languages. A recording of this session can be [viewed online](#) where further details of upcoming assemblies will shortly be posted.

In a new development for this year, e-Sgoil are delighted to host, in partnership with Stornoway Primary and The Nicolson Institute, three Chinese exchange teachers who, through their work with Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, will bring Mandarin language opportunities to learners in secondary schools throughout Scotland. There are options for classes to join during the school day or for individual learners to participate after school. The teachers will also work with primary and secondary pupils in e-Sgoil's interrupted learner provision to enrich their language learning. For more information about the online sessions and to sign up [visit our website](#).

Rhona Johnstone, e-Sgoil



A large poster for a 'BEGINNERS JAPANESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE TASTER COURSE 2024-25'. The background is light yellow with pink cherry blossom branches. At the bottom is a red silhouette of a Japanese pagoda. Text includes 'CLASSES STARTING MID-NOVEMBER' and 'LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE'. Logos for 'THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH', 'National e-Learning Offer', and 'JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金' are at the bottom.

Scots language teacher professional learning programme wins national award

The role of Scots language in education has entered yet another exciting new chapter.

After being launched in the Scottish Storytelling Centre in February 2024 by Cabinet Secretary Jenny Gilruth, the first ever Scots language teacher professional learning programme has gone from strength to strength and is still open for new teachers to join.

Developed and delivered by the Open University in partnership with Education Scotland, the programme has been designed to suit any learning environment, and helps teachers understand the equality, diversity and inclusion aspect

of bringing Scots language into pupils' education. Furthermore, teachers on the course find out about the literacy benefits of Scots in the classroom alongside the potential of Scots as a driver for multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary education in schools.

So far over 200 teachers have signed up from across both primary and secondary sectors, who teach a wide range of subject specialisms. The course is delivered entirely online, with each unit dedicated to developing classroom practice. Teachers from all over Scotland work together in tutor groups to learn about Scots in education, share ideas, deliver Scots language lessons, and receive bespoke

feedback and guidance on how to continue to develop their skills, culminating in GTCS professional recognition once they have completed the programme.

At the 2024 Scots Language Awards in Cumnock the course was awarded 'Education Project of the Year'. Places are currently available for free, as fees are paid for by the Scottish Government. To register your interest in enrolling on the January 2025 cohort of teachers complete [our short online form](#).

It wud be brow ta hae you as pairt o this exciting new teachin community!

Sylvia Warnecke, Open University



Image 1: Jamie Fairbairn (top left); Image 2: Jamie Fairbairn (top right); Image 3: Innes and Campbell Communications (bottom)

The Library Hub

The Library Hub, run by The Language Hub in Glasgow, is a multilingual lending library aimed at fostering language learning and supporting bilingual families. Located in the city's west end, within the hub's own café, the library provides access to books and teaching materials for both children and adults in over 50 languages. The Library Hub aligns with the Scottish Government's 1+2 approach and EAL support, designed to make world languages more accessible.

In addition to borrowing books, members can participate in language classes and cultural activities, making it a central resource for the community. The hub offers affordable membership options for individuals and educational

institutions, allowing users to access a wide selection of books, films, and music to aid their language development and provision. The emphasis on bilingual support helps families raise multilingual children in a multicultural environment. Through the café, ESOL is combined with employability training opportunities offering a more rounded set of skills for learners.

Beyond its library services, The Library Hub promotes intercultural exchanges through workshops, events, and classes,



creating a rich learning environment for all ages. With its friendly atmosphere and educational focus, it has become a vital resource for Glasgow's diverse and linguistically varied community.

[Visit our website](#)

Michele Gordon, The Language Hub

Bilingual and accessible picture books to teach French

Tania Czajka, French author of the bilingual picture book *Lapin is Hungry*, is thrilled to announce that her publisher TBR Books (the publishing arm of the Centre for the Advancement of Languages, Education and Communities) has worked hard to get the story translated into other languages. *Lapin is Hungry*, originally written in English and French, can now be listened to in:

- Arabic / French
- Chinese / French
- German / French
- Spanish / French

Tania hopes these resources will be useful in teaching French to young children who speak Arabic, Chinese, German, or Spanish as a first language. To make the *Lapin* experience and French learning more inclusive, Tania worked with native speakers who recorded the audio versions of the story and of the glossary. These audio files are available on [Le Petit Monde Stories website](#).

The books themselves, together with the new *Lapin* adventure, *Lapin is Cold*, can be purchased through the [Le Petit Monde Stories website](#).

Tania and her team at Le Petit Monde Stories are devising a French toolkit based on the Creative Puppetry for Languages approach that the author and teaching artist developed through research studies. The toolkit will include a *Lapin* book along with all the

resources to implement the play-based and child-led approach to teaching French. If you are interested, please [contact Tania directly](#).

You can find out more about Creative Puppetry with Languages in the Early Years approach by reading the project [case study on the SCILT website](#).

Tania Czajka, Le Petit Monde



Languages beyond school

Language mentoring programme returns!

Language Explorers Scotland



Following the successful roll-out of Scotland's first national languages mentoring programme in 2023-24, the Language Explorers Scotland programme is back!

Last year, 14 schools from 10 local authorities benefitted from small-group mentoring sessions with university students who have a lived experience of languages and multiculturalism. Student language mentors from across Scotland met online with mentees weekly over six weeks to explore the bigger picture of language learning. S2 and S3 mentees had the chance to uncover the benefits of language learning prior to making their subject course choices. Mentees largely came from the middle-ground of pupils who had no strong feelings either way about taking languages to the next level – those young people who were open to learning about how language skills could support them before making up their minds.

Inspired by similar programmes in other parts of the UK, mentoring interventions like Language Explorers Scotland have been shown to contribute to an increase in the number of learners continuing with languages into higher levels of study, which is the main aim of Language Explorers Scotland.

The benefits extend to the student mentors, too. As one mentor reflected: "This experience was a bit outside my comfort zone due to no experience with young people, but that it precisely why I chose to do it, to expand my horizons." Another noted: "I always thought I was too shy a person to pursue my childhood dream of being a teacher, but since enrolling in this programme I have learned that it is now a very real possibility for me."

If you are interested in finding out more about the Language Explorers Programme, please visit the [SCILT webpage](https://www.scilt.org.uk).

Mentee 2023-24 quotes:

"It helped me decide and know the benefits of choosing a language."

"It is educational, and we get to learn different ways to understand languages."

Teacher 2023-24 quotes:

"It was a great experience for both pupils and teachers. It gave us all a lot of food for thought."

"It allows the pupils to focus on something completely different to their language classes and gets them to think about languages from a different angle. It provided an opportunity for us to allow our quieter pupils to have a voice and experience the one-on-one time."

Suzanne Ritchie, SCILT

Promoting languages to secondary learners

Since 2023-24, SCILT has hosted two complementary online workshop series aimed at showing secondary learners the value of studying languages as a skill for life and work. These two programmes are Language Ambassadors Online and DYW Live – Languages and Your Career.

The Language Ambassadors Online programme consists of monthly bookable sessions held on Corporate Teams. Each session is led by a different group of students. Our Language Ambassadors are students of various languages on a range of degree programmes who are keen to share their experiences of learning languages and discovering new cultures.

Last year, in our first year of running these sessions online, students from the universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Heriot Watt, St Andrews, Stirling and Strathclyde took part. This year we are also joined by the University of Glasgow. Some students join us from home, some from campus and some from their year abroad, so we get to see a real snapshot of life as a languages student at university. In our first session for

2024-25, one student joined from Taiwan where he is spending his year abroad – this is our record distance to date!

These sessions do not just focus on studying languages at university, but also on the wider experiences and benefits that learning languages have brought to the students who participate, and on tips and advice for younger learners.

To complement that programme, we also offer Languages and Your Career, presented in conjunction with e-Sgoil's DYW Live programme and held in Glow Teams. In that programme we look more directly at the value of choosing languages for employability, the benefits of a language, and the range of careers that this opens up.

These sessions are held monthly between September and February. In 2023-24 we also held two special sessions in May and June, one aimed at BGE learners focusing on the fun and transferrable skills that come from learning languages, and one for senior phase learners beginning their new languages courses.

In our first event of session 2024-25 we featured six live guests from a range of careers covering all sorts of options from the RAF to hospitality and tourism, and everything in between. This enabled learners to hear first-hand of the opportunities open to them with languages, and to ask questions of people working directly in these areas.

Sessions in both programmes are always live and interactive. In both, schools are free to arrive and leave during session times as their timetable permits.

Find out more and register for Language Ambassadors Online sessions on [SCILT's School/University Liaison](#) webpage, which also contains information about SCILT's other senior phase programmes and in-person language ambassador programmes offered by individual universities.

Information and registration for the Languages and Your Career workshops are on e-Sgoil's [Languages and Your Career webpage](#).

Sheena Bell, SCILT



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At the University of Strathclyde, SCILT has a number of partnerships with key organisations in Scotland, UK and further afield.

