

Partner and Affiliate School Bulletin: Spring 2 2025

We're half-way through the academic year and the sun has been shining over the weekend. As you approach what's likely to be the busiest half-term of 24-25, TTLH is here to support you, rounding up the latest news from the Language Community.

**TTLH's Spring 2 Virtual Teach-Meet
Wednesday 19th March 3.30 – 4.30pm.
A focus on Year 10 and Year 11.**

Join us at this half term's **virtual teach-meet** providing an opportunity to share best practice with TTLH's partner and affiliate schools in the **run up to GCSE exams.**

The teach-meet will have a dual focus:

1. How can we support our learners to **learn the words** on the **defined vocab list**?
2. What are the **tried and tested revision** strategies experienced teachers use to **support their Year 11 students** in the run up to their summer exams?

On Wednesday 12th February, 35 teachers from schools across Birmingham, Stoke and Staffordshire, joined us at our Motivation and Transition CPD event.

Having primary and secondary colleagues together in the same room to consider how we can motivate the young people in our classrooms from the start of KS2 to University was very powerful.

We were also joined by Cathy Hampton from the University of Warwick who was able to add a further dimension to our discussions. We know many of you wanted to attend but couldn't be released from school. Catch up on the key takeaways from the session in our [key takeaway document](#).

"Fantastic course. Brilliantly put together and really opened my eyes to improving French at my school."

Participant at TTLH's Motivation and Transition Event. Feb 2025.



Feedback from TTLH's CPD events is consistently positive.

"An excellent opportunity to discuss strategies, resources and common issues faced in MFL teaching.

Positive and informative!"
Participant at TTLH's Motivation and Transition Event. Feb 2025.

We'd love to see you online at our next event.

[Register now on our website.](#)

Actions from this Bulletin:

1. [Register for our KS4 focused teach-meet](#) taking place on Wednesday 19th March between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.
2. [Read Libby's Blog](#) outlining how to keep your student's calm on the day of the speaking exams.
3. Are you still looking for HHCL examiners? If so, let us know. We might be able to help.
4. **#ShoutforGerman** is taking place in the week commencing the 17th March. Read [Isobel and Traciean's blog posts](#) with some easy to implement ideas to raise awareness of German.
5. Are you looking to raise the profile of Languages in your school in the run up to options evening? [Check out our summary of free resources currently available.](#)
6. [Browse the CPD offer from NCLE](#), and our cultural partners.



Speaking exams are around the corner... [In her latest blog post](#), Libby Franklin our TTLH Affiliate School Advocate shares some top tips for supporting your students in run up to the big day.

- 1 **Pre-plan the logistics.** Plan the timetable considering students with extra time and other access arrangements. Share the timetable with teaching staff, the exams officer and put printed copies on your classroom door. Book preparation and exam rooms and make sure you have the required 'warning to candidate' signs and any additional paperwork required. Your exams officer will be able to help with this.
- 2 **Check the technology.** Ensure that your digital recording devices are fully charged, or that you have spare batteries on hand. Check the sound quality on these devices if they are new and ensure that all staff are familiar with using these devices in advance of the exams.
- 3 **Have a back-up plan.** What happens if a student doesn't arrive for their exam? If the recording device stops part way through the recording? If a student is unwell or gets upset during the exam? Make sure everyone in the Languages team knows what to do if things don't go according to plan and where the HOD, exams officer or Leadership support will be on the day.
- 4 **Consider a 'warm-up' room.** It is natural that students will be nervous on the day of the exam. Consider establishing a 'warm-up' room where students can go to 15 minutes prior to their preparation time to get 'in the zone'. If possible, arrange for this to be supervised by your Language Assistant or A level linguists who can provide last-minute words of encouragement and/or practice.
- 5 **Manage the nerves with a 'magical prop' or a fiddle toy.** To break the ice when students enter the exam room, offer them a 'prop' to wear related to the TL, and tell them that it possesses magical TL speaking powers. For instance, a French beret or miniature sombrero. Fiddle toys (paperclips, soft toys and therapy putty) can also help to focus a student's attention and calm their nerves.
- 6 **Organise the rewards for after the exam!** The speaking exams are extremely stressful for students, (and teachers) and it is a good idea to end the experience with a small reward.

If you are conducting speaking exams, make sure you have read the 'Instructions for the Conduct of Exams' guide for your exam board so you are fully aware of the requirements. These guides can be downloaded from the exam boards' websites.



What about Home, Heritage and Community Language Exams?

Farhat Nazir Mushtaq, our HHCL advocate offers some advice.



- 1 Remember these exams are very similar to those you do in French, Spanish and German. The things you do for your Fr, Sp and Ger candidates will work equally as well for your Polish, Arabic and Bengali candidates.
- 2 Make sure your students know what they are going to be asked to do. Student speaking exam prep booklets are available on the TTLH website. [HHCL: Preparing your students for their speaking exams - Trent and Tame Language Hub](#)

3 You may need to notify the exam board if you are using an examiner who is not a member of staff in your school. Check the ICE document for more details. Remember, examiners can not be related to the student being tested.

4 There is a wide a wide range of additional support and HHCL advice available on the [ALL website](#).

How can I raise the profile of Languages in my School? Take a look at what's already available for Free!

1

NCLE have designed a micro site aimed at parents called [Languages Taking your Child Further.](#)



Short Videos



A myth buster



Interactive Quiz

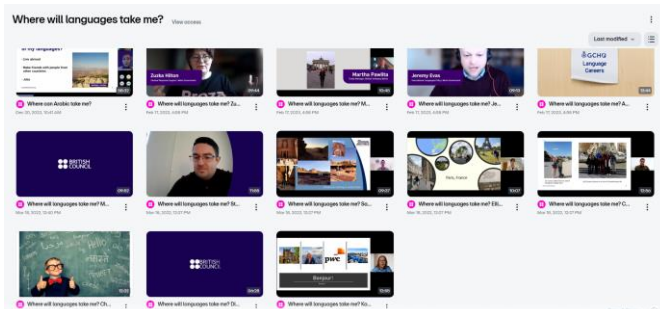


Posters



2

The British Council have developed a series of videos and a student workbook about the benefits of language learning. [Where will languages take me? | British Council](#)



3

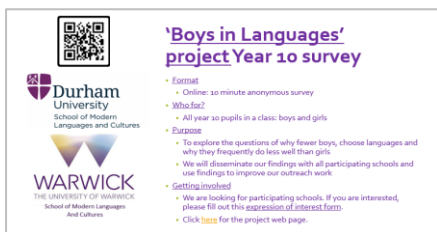
Consider a different approach entirely. Have you heard of [WoLLoW?](#) World of Languages, Languages of the World?



[A new approach to primary language teaching can solve the issue of transition to secondary, argues John Cloughton - WoLLoW](#)

4

Explore what's available through Routes into Languages and the University of Warwick.



Routes into Languages

5

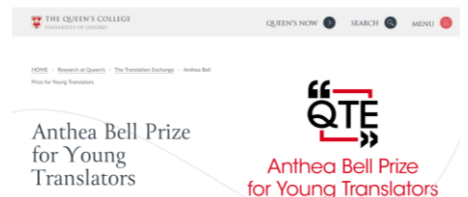
[Business Language Champions](#)

Business Language Champions aims to demonstrate to young students the importance of language skills in the workplace. Bringing schools and the world of international business together inspires young people to take their language learning further.



6

[Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators](#)



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Looking for some ideas to re-invigorate your own practice?

Take a look at the CPD offer from NCLE, their cultural partners and our neighbouring language hubs.

NCLE Universal CPD events

26th March 2025 4.00pm - 5.00pm	Transition & Transfer at KS2 (Part 2) Webinar Registration - Zoom
11th June 4.00pm - 5.00pm	NCLE CPD Webinar: AI Focus Registration will open soon

Stay up to date with NCLE's CPD offer and the latest on the universal CPD platform by joining their mailing list. <https://ncle-language-hubs.ucl.ac.uk/join-mailing-list/>

CPD events for Spanish Teachers

18th, 25th March and 1st April 2025 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Online workshop: Consejería de Educación en el Reino Unido & Fedele Valencian Community Register here
June/July '25 This course is running multiple times across June and July '25	Summertime Methodology Course in Salamanca The University of Salamanca offers scholarships for a one-week course on language, culture, and teaching methods. The scholarship covers accommodation, meals, and cultural activities, but participants need to cover a small enrollment fee (215 euros) and their own travel expenses. Curso de Lengua y Cultura

CPD Events for German Teachers

17th - 21st March 2025	#ShoutOutforGerman. Find out about the GI's German week offer here
27th April onwards	Exchange2Change Youth Exchange Programme (Goethe-Institut) More information is available here

CPD events from the Exam Boards

11th March 2025 16:00 - 18:00 online	Pearson Edexcel GCSE French, German and Spanish 2024: Getting Ready to Teach Register here
On demand	AQA have recently launched the first of their e-learning modules , delving into the new specification and how the mark scheme will be applied. Understanding the reading paper is currently available with the other papers coming soon.

