

Partner and Affiliate School Bulletin: Spring 1 2025

Happy New Year! Time to sit down with a cup of tea (and maybe the last of the Christmas chocolates) and enjoy the latest language news from across Birmingham, Stoke and Staffordshire.

TTLH's Spring Term CPD Offer: Motivation and Transition Wednesday 12th February 12.30 – 4.00pm. Sessions at Arthur Terry and at Painsley Catholic College.

The theme for our spring term CPD is Motivation and Transition. This CPD session is open to language teachers and leaders in both Primary and Secondary settings and will provide an opportunity for colleagues to share current practice across phases and to build relationships.

- What do we want young people to take away from four years of KS2 language study and three years of KS3 language study?
- How can we build a consistent narrative from Year 3 to Year 13 about the value of language learning?
- What does effective transition between KS2 and KS3 and KS3, KS4 and KS5 look like?

[Register now on our website.](#)

“Thank you so much for yesterday - it was brilliant! I particularly liked the logical, clear structure and the way that you underpinned all the practical ideas with the theory.”
Feedback from TTLH's Autumn CPD Session

TTLH's Autumn CPD Events focused on Motivation and Oracy.

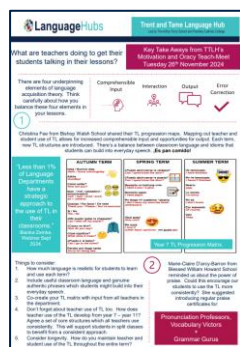
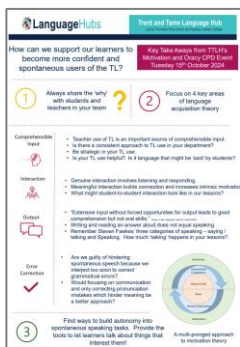
[Download the key takeaways](#) from the face-to-face session and the [follow up teach meet](#) on our website.

Primary Languages Subject Leadership

TTLH is delighted to be working alongside BEP (Birmingham Education Partnership) to offer a Primary Languages Subject Leadership Course.

Session 1 took place in the Autumn Term.

[Download the key take aways here.](#)



There's still time to sign up to benefit from session 2 and session 3. E-mail tracy.williams@atlp.org.uk for more information.

Actions from this Bulletin:

1. [Register for our Motivation and Transition face-to-face CPD](#) taking place on Wednesday 12th February between 12.30 and 4.00pm.
2. [Read Libby's Blog](#) with her top 5 tips for increasing GCSE and A-Level uptake.
3. Consider your HHCL entries. [Read Farhat's top tips for ensuring GCSE success with HHCL entries.](#)
4. Consider entering any Arabic speakers into the [Arabic Language Reading competition](#). Great prizes on offer.
5. [Browse the CPD offer from NCLE](#), The Consejería de Educación and our neighbouring language hubs. Not forgetting **ALL's flagship conference Language World!**
6. TTLH's Autumn CPD focused on Motivation and Oracy. Share the progress you have made in this area by entering the [British Council's speaking competition during February](#).
7. Consider how you might raise the profile of German in your school during the [Goethe Institut's #Shoutoutfor German](#) event in March.

The Spring Term means one thing. **OPTIONS!** In her latest blog post, Libby Franklin our TTLH Affiliate School Advocate reflects on what you can do in the weeks and months leading up to options to encourage your students to opt for a Language GCSE.

Motivating learners to become linguists. How can we persuade children to continue with MFL at GCSE and A level?

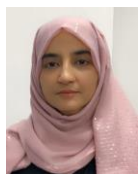


The statistics around GCSE and A-Level Language uptake don't make great reading. How can we reverse these trends and provide hope for the future of languages in the UK? Here are my top 5 tips for increasing uptake, based on my experience of MFL teaching in 3 different schools.

- 1 **Consider the specific barriers to uptake within your school and devise a strategic plan to overcome these.** Start with pupil voice and then develop your plan with concrete information relevant to your setting.
- 2 **Ensure that pupils in your classroom/department experience self-efficacy.** Consider to what extent your curriculum allows pupils to build their skills and confidence. If you feel that students aren't making progress, adjust your curriculum by reducing the content and building in sufficient input time for pupils to become proficient at output stage
- 3 **Celebrate your student's successes with lots of praise.** When students feel that they are seen and their efforts are valued, recognised and impactful, they are more likely to opt for your subject at GCSE/A level.
- 4 **Raise the profile of MFL in your school, making it a subject that everyone respects and values.** When MFL is 'talked about' as a subject that people take seriously, pupils will themselves come to value the subject. Pupils are heavily influenced by their peers, and therefore some effort should be made to 'put MFL on the map' in school.
- 5 **Get parents on board, helping them to positively influence their child's options in your favour.** We know that parents have a huge influence on the options choices of their children. When looking to improve uptake, we therefore need to focus not only on selling our subject to students, but to parents as well.

For further detail on each of Libby's strategies, visit our website to read her blog post in full.

What about Home, Heritage and Community Languages? How can I support my learners to gain an additional qualification in another Language?



In her latest blog post, Farhat Nazir Mushtaq TTLH's Home, Heritage and Community Languages Advocate shares her top tips for HHCL exam entries.

- 1 Identify any students who could gain an additional qualification in a HHCL examination.
- 2 Check which languages are offered by each exam board.
- 3 Find speaking examiners to conduct the speaking exams. TTLH can help with this. [Let us know if you'd like to find out more about our HHCL speaking exam centre.](#)
- 4 Support your students to prepare the exam. [Check out the speaking exam preparation booklets available on our website.](#)

The Arabic Language Reading Competition 2025 is an excellent opportunity to encourage students to read in Arabic and inspire a love of reading in general.

By taking part, participants build their confidence in reading, improve their fluency and comprehension, expand their vocabulary, and compete for a special prize. With its judging phase on Zoom, this competition will create a buzz of excitement in the community, especially among students learning Arabic. [Find out more on our website.](#)



Raising the profile of all languages in your school. #ShoutOutForGerman

As busy language teachers, it's easy to forget that part of our role is to set the scene for future study of ALL languages, not just those that we teach in our current setting. As more and more students decide to learn a language ab initio at university, why not add German into the mix of languages your students might want to explore?

Between the **17th and the 21st March**, the Goethe Institut will be holding **#ShoutOutForGerman**. This exciting week is dedicated to celebrating the German language, encouraging schools to immerse their learners in a series of fun, innovative and didactic activities designed to promote the German language and to further emphasise the importance of multilingualism and cultural understanding in an increasingly interconnected world. You don't have to teach German in your school to get involved!

Isobel Eddy and Traciean Richards, TTLH's German advocates are available to support all schools across Birmingham, Stoke and Staffordshire to plan activities to raise the profile of German across their setting.



From a lunch time film club, a German food tasting event, an exploration of the world of German nouns or learning how to pronounce the names of German footballers, there's lots you can do during the #ShoutOutforGerman week to sew the seed and pave the way for future exploration of the German Language.



Get in contact with Traciean or Isobel by e-mailing tlh@atlp.org.uk or visit the [Goethe Institut website](#) for some initial ideas.



Each February, The British Council and NCLE hold a festival of language where your students can show off their language skills.

Celebrate your student's speaking prowess either in the language they learn in school or in a language they speak at home.

1. Record your students speaking another language for no more than 90 seconds
2. Upload the performance to your school's X account with the hashtags #CelebrateSpeaking and the language chosen (e.g. #Polish).
3. The judging panel will select their favourite performances and students will be invited to attend an online celebration event to perform live or via a pre-recorded video.

[Visit the British Council website to find out more.](#)

Are you coming to Language World? Taking place practically on our doorstep in Kenilworth on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th March, this is an event not to be missed!



Language World is the annual conference and training event of the Association for Language Learning. It is a highlight of the year for teachers of all languages and attracts hundreds of participants each day from across all sectors. Delegates have the opportunity to listen to and be inspired by keynote speakers, attend workshops, reflect and debate as they look together at key areas relevant to their own context.

The programme for this year's event has now been released and features a keynote from HMI Bianca Zemke and sessions led by practising teachers looking at motivation, the new GCSE, effective feedback, language leadership and using AI to name but a few sessions! There's also a couple of familiar names on the programme!

For more information about the [programme](#) and to [register](#) please visit the [Language World website](#).

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

15th January 2025 4.00pm - 5.00pm	Bringing the New GCSE to Life (Part 2) Webinar Registration - Zoom
12th February 2025 4.00pm - 5.00pm	Transition & Transfer at KS2 (Part 1) https://ucl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yBimONyyR0CMVEVlefAk1Q#/registration
26th March 2025 4.00pm - 5.00pm	Transition & Transfer at KS2 (Part 2) Webinar Registration - Zoom

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

8th February 2025	Spanish Day: Nottingham (Consejería de Educación en el Reino Unido) 2025 - Jornada de formación en Nottingham - Reino Unido Ministerio de Educación, Formación Profesional y Deportes
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 teachers of Spanish abroad. These include a one-week course on language, culture, and teaching methods, available between June and July 2025. The scholarship covers accommodation, meals, and cultural activities, but participants need to cover a small enrollment fee (215 euros) and their own travel expenses. Applications are accepted until slots are filled Curso de Lengua y Cultura

CPD events run by Grand Union Language Hub

Wednesday 22 nd January 2025 3.30pm – 4.30pm Online	Facilitating Phonics Led by Georgina Jackson. Register Grand Union CPD – Grand Union Language Hub
Wednesday 5 th February 2025 3.30pm – 4.30pm Online	EEF Implementation in MFL. Led by Emily Stallard Register Grand Union CPD – Grand Union Language Hub
Wednesday 26 th February 2025 3.30pm – 4.30pm Online	AI: Enhancing MFL Provision. Led by Esther Woodburn. Register Grand Union CPD – Grand Union Language Hub