

How can we build a consistent narrative about the value of language learning from Ks2 – Ks5 and beyond?

Key Take Aways from TTLH's Motivation and Transition Event
Wednesday 12th November 2025

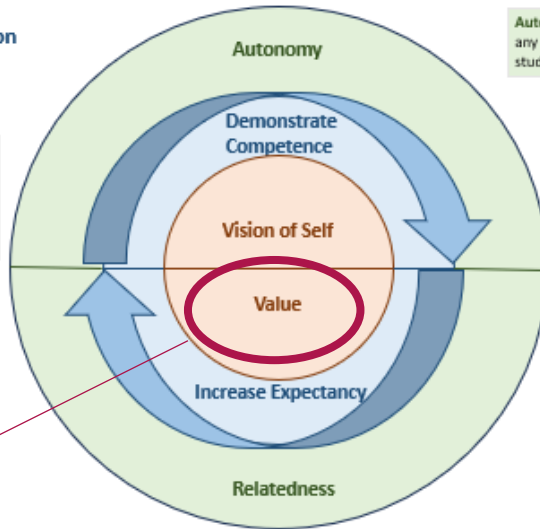
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Students need a well-sequenced curriculum and consistently good teaching. They also need to understand and value what learning a language can bring to their life.

A multi-pronged approach to motivation theory

Vision of Self
How does the learner envisage using the language in the future? Does the planned curriculum support students to move closer to their own goal?

Value
Does the learner value language learning and understand how it will enrich their life?



Autonomy: The extent to which learners have any agency over what they study and how they study.

Competence: Does the curriculum model provide sufficient opportunities for learners to demonstrate and use their language skills for real and useful purposes?

Expectancy: Over time, as learners see themselves successfully using language, they start to believe they will be successful, increasing self-efficacy.

The extent to which a) the content being introduced is relevant and relatable to the learners and b) the learners feel a sense of belonging to their class / teacher / the language.

“All aspects of the motivation equation... are interrelated. Curriculum designers and policy makers need to develop a multipronged approach if we are to have any hope of moving forward.” Graham, S. (2023) Motivation for language learning: Challenges and possible solutions.

2

Transition isn't limited to Ks2 – Ks3. An increase or decrease in motivation can occur at each transition point.



KS2 – KS3

KS3 – KS4
KS4 – KS5

KS5 – FE / HE



Primary School

Secondary School

University and Beyond

Galton's Bridges of Transition

There are many different ways to make transition effective. Relationships between all transition stakeholders are crucial. Don't forget about parents!



The Bureaucratic Bridge



The Social / Personal Bridge



The Curriculum Bridge



The Pedagogy Bridge



The Management of Learning Bridge

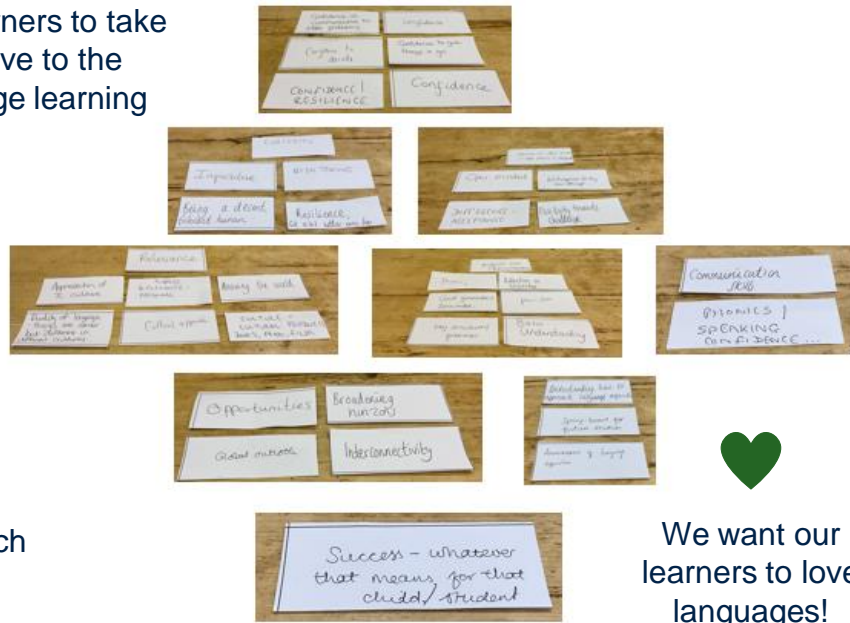
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Relationships between the transition stakeholders underpin each of Galton's bridges

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What do you want your learners to take with them when they move to the next stage of their language learning journey?

- Confidence
- Resilience
- Being open-minded
- Cultural Appreciation
- Knowledge and application of phonics, vocab and grammar
- Communication skills
- Global outlook and expanded opportunities
- Understanding of how to approach future language learning
- A sense of success



We want our learners to love languages!

5

How can we build a compelling narrative about the value of language learning from Ks2 – Ks5?

TTLH's Transition Pilot Project.
KS2 and Year 7

The linguists – 5 superheroes with exceptional powers



Tejus The thinker Kian The communicator Athena The enthusiast Bella The brave Gio The global citizen

Year 8 and beyond

A linguist's USP



6

Use the [EEF's implementation cycle](#) to develop and embed a compelling narrative into your existing curriculum provision?

How might I build a compelling narrative about the value of learning languages into my existing provision?

Explore	Determine current reality. Pupil, parent and SLT Voice. Explore best practice. How do other schools raise the profile of languages in their settings?
Prepare	Develop a plan. Where do we want to get to? What will this look like? How can we get there? When is the right time? Build buy-in from staff and SLT. Develop resources. Deliver CPD
Deliver	Start to implement the plan. Consider a pilot group. Build momentum with stakeholders. Monitor delivery and evaluate impact. Celebrate success. Review and adapt the plan. Address ongoing CPD needs
Sustain	Continue to monitor, evaluate, modify the plan and celebrate success. How do you maintain momentum? Who are your advocates?

From April 2025, Tracy Williams will have capacity to support with the development and implementation of this work. Please e-mail Tracy if you'd like to find out more.

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

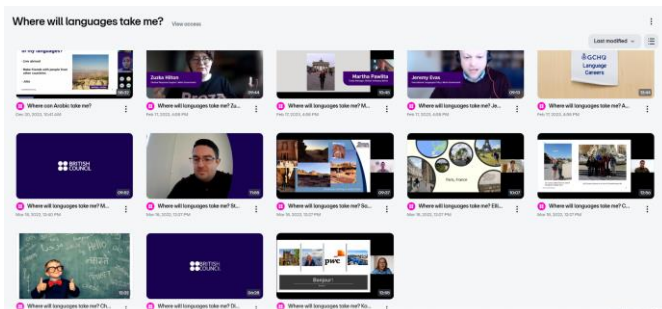


Posters



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

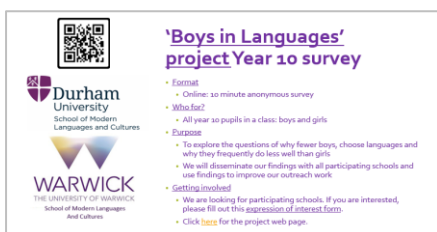
Consider a different approach entirely. Have you heard of [WoLLoW?](#)
World of Languages,
Languages of the World?



[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](#)

