Languages Connect: Looking back and Looking forward

Karen Ruddock Post-Primary Languages Ireland

4th May 2021





Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI)

PARENT AGENCY



Diversifying, enhancing and expanding the teaching and learning of foreign languages at post-primary level.

Unit of the Department of Education. Established in 2000.

Languages Connect – Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017–2026

Ireland's education system will promote a society where the ability to learn and use at least one foreign language is taken for granted, because of its inherent value for individuals, society and the economy.

Published by the Irish Government in December 2017.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



To promote the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of foreign language skills to principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and students, in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Facilitated by PPLI since Sept 2018



Looking at the Strategy: Four overarching goals

- 1. Improve language proficiency by creating a more engaging learning environment.
- 2. Diversify and increase the uptake of languages learned and cultivate the languages of the new Irish.
- 3. Increase awareness of the importance of language learning to encourage the wider use of foreign languages.
- 4. Enhance employer engagement in the development and use of trade languages

Creating a more engaging environment

- ITE and CPD
 - Evidence of CEFR Level B2.2 across all language skills for registration
 - Increase possibilities for short-term teacher exchanges in the post-primary sector and promote their uptake

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Continue to encourage and support the use of innovative teaching methods and ICT supports for teaching and learning languages











Communities of Practice: 54 meetings in 2020, 594 attendees





Supports for Teaching and Learning

Expand the language assistants' scheme to include other languages and countries, and increase the number of assistants and the participation by schools in the scheme

	Schools	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Spain	176	12	20	30	<mark>34</mark>	34
France	634	60	70	70	70	70
Germany	322	30	34	40	40	40
Italy	14	6	9	9	9	9
Austria (German)		2	6	10	10	10
Switzerland (5xGerman+5xFrench)		0	0	0	0	
Wallonia (French)				5	5	5
Japanese				2	2	2
		110	139	166	170	170





Supports for Teaching and Learning

The Department's Inspectorate will, through its evaluation and advisory processes, provide positive support for a quality foreign language education for learners. This will include advice and guidance to schools about using school self-evaluation, school planning to improve foreign language education, and a range of evaluation approaches to monitor and report on the quality of foreign language education

Modern Foreign Languages:

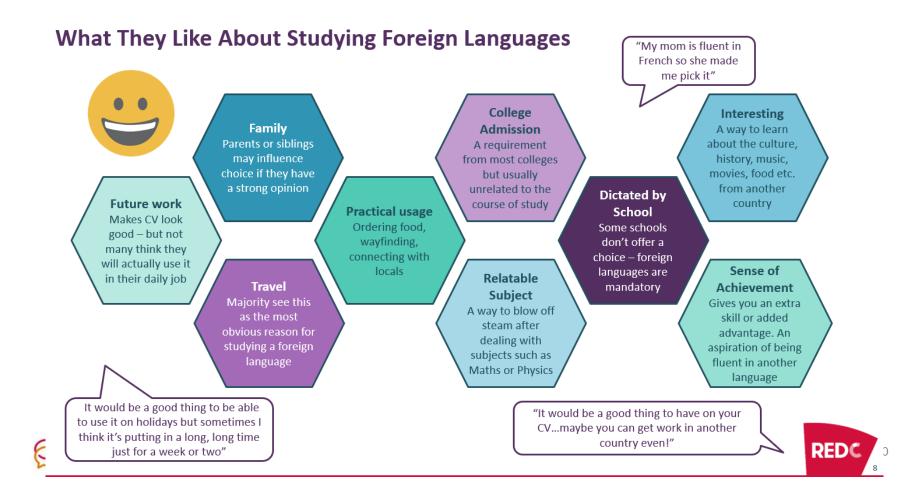
A Report on the Quality of Practice in Post-Primary Schools





Supports for Teaching and Learning

 Carry out periodic surveys of students' attitudes and experiences of foreign language learning



CLIL

Explore the potential of using Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) to support and reinforce language learning.

Partition of the control of the cont	petit déjeuner ?			
	Prénom Theo céréales × fruit pain	lait boisson chaude sucre dedans		
	viennoiseries œufs bacon / jambon beurre			
	confiture yaourt autre jus de fruit			



Primary Languages

Ask the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) to give consideration to including foreign languages in senior classes as part of its review of the primary curriculum. The Department will consider the recommendations of the review following completion.

Programme for Government

Our Shared Future

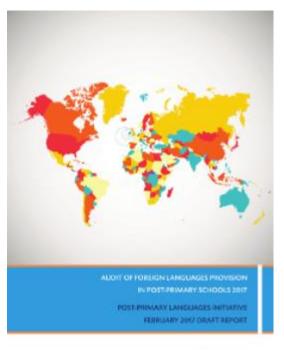
Develop a new, modern languages in primary school Initiative.



Diversify, increase and cultivate

Teacher Supply

Carry out research to identify future language needs and aim for provision and uptake in line with those needs.







Teacher Supply

06 April, 2021 - Ministers Foley and Harris announce additional places on upskilling programmes for post-primary teachers in mathematics, physics and Spanish and new upskilling programme in Irish

The Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD are delighted to announce additional places in 2022 on programmes to upskill registered post-primary teachers to teach mathematics, physics and Spanish and the intention to issue a call for a new upskilling programme in Irish.

Minister Foley said: "I am delighted to announce, with my colleague Minister Harris, additional places for next year's intake to the current upskilling programmes in mathematics, physics and Spanish for teachers in post-primary schools.

"There has been intense interest from teachers in these programmes, and the number of applications for the programmes that began in January 2021 was significantly in excess of available places. I would like to applaud the great commitment and willingness of our teachers to increase their skills and knowledge to meet the needs of our schools and students.



Visiting Spanish Teacher Programme



Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) @languages_ie · Mar 4

Is your school looking to fill a **Spanish** teaching post? If so, you might be interested in The **Visiting Spanish** Teacher Programme, an exciting new pilot venture between Dept of Ed @Education_Ire and **Spanish** govt @asesoria_dublin Info at ppli.ie/news/visiting-... Deadline 15th March



Teacher Upskilling

Complete the audit to identify teachers who are qualified to teach a foreign language but who may not have the opportunity to teach that language in their schools. Provide opportunities and incentives for these teachers to upskill by means of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or post-graduate courses.

A total of 67 teachers were granted funding in 2019. Of the 67 successful applicants 35% were for French, 33% for Spanish, 26% for German and 6% were for Italian upskilling. The upskilling scheme has provided meaningful and tangible support to teachers who provided evidence of increased language proficiency and CEFR levels.

Seven schools were able to introduce a new language and offer more languages to students (Spanish, German, Italian). In schools where the target language was already being taught the school was able to expand language provision or use additional teachers to deliver the subject.

Gaining confidence in the target language was rated as the most positive outcome for teachers, followed by improving their CEFR level, both of which are likely to result in improved outcomes for students in these language classrooms.



Funding for Shortfall in TC criteria for registration

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCShortfallFunding

PPLI Funding Scheme for MFL Teachers



The PPLI Funding scheme is designed for MFL teachers with a shortfall in Teaching Council registration criteria. The aim of the scheme is to increase MFL teaching capacity in post-primary schools in Ireland.

The target group consists of MFL teachers who have a shortfall in Teaching Council registration criteria for a foreign language on the post-primary curriculum. Teachers may be internationally qualified, or they may have done a degree in Ireland which is missing credits in a particular area.

Be sure to read the Guidelines provided for more information and criteria.

Apply here>>



Support for Immigrant Languages

- Carry out an audit, in collaboration with interested embassies, in order to identify locations where there is a level of interest and demand for mother tongue support to inform further provision
- In contact regularly with relevant embassies and recently with ALL representative embassies of non-curricular languages
- Research ongoing



The following excerpt provides specific information on the Candidate Self Service Portal for students studying non-curricular languages. To watch the video in full, see gov.ie/leavingcertifi...

Important information on Non-Curricular Language Subjects

- You should have received an email with specific arrangements for the Proficiency Assessment
- This is a 90 minute assessment commencing at 2pm on Saturday
 8 May 2021
- If you choose not to complete the assessment, the only route to a grade in a non-curricular languag

0:09



Alternative flexible models of provision

Develop a model of peripatetic deployment of teachers for Japanese, Russian, Italian, and for new and immigrant languages including Chinese and Polish.

Explore the potential for alternative, flexible models such as blended learning (a combination of face-to-face teaching with computer technology), clustering learners, and evening /weekend classes.

Number of Students in Saturday classes this year 617 (Russian 303 / Japanese 208/ Chinese 35/ Lithuanian 12 / Portuguese 4 / Romanian 55 and 11 Teachers).
Language provision for students in schools: 5,270 (Japanese 2,337 / Russian 1037 / Chinese 985 / Korean 206 / Lithuanian 112 / Portuguese 332 / Polish 261)
Blended learning models



Junior Cycle

Develop a range of short courses in other languages (immigrant or new languages) for junior cycle and make them available to schools

Junior Cycle Short Courses

Junior Cycle short courses in new Modern Languages have been and are being developed by the PPLI. These 100 hour courses are based on the Framework for Junior Cycle (DES, 2015) and on the Junior Cycle Short Courses Draft Handbook 'Developing Short Courses in Junior Cycle' which includes the Course Specifications template as well as guidelines and useful appendices. The Framework provides the statements of learning and key skills which all short courses are based upon. For all reference documents please consult the NCCA dedicated Junior Cycle Short Courses page. Click here

New Short Courses in Modern Languages are aligned to both the Junior Cycle Framework and NCCA template and to the European benchmark for modern languages, the Council of Europe Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The courses will also be compatible with purpose-made language e-Portfolios based on the European Language Portfolio (ELP). For information on the potential for alignment of the two frameworks, see here (article) and here (table).

This section contains the generic Modern Languages documents, language-specific Junior Cycle short courses based on these in Japanese, Polish as a Heritage Language, Russian, and Irish Sign Language (ISL). Information on these can be obtained by contacting Karen Ruddock, PPLI Director, directly at Karen.Ruddock@ppli.ie

Click below to go to the Short course of your choice:

Japanese

Lithuanian

Polish

Russiar

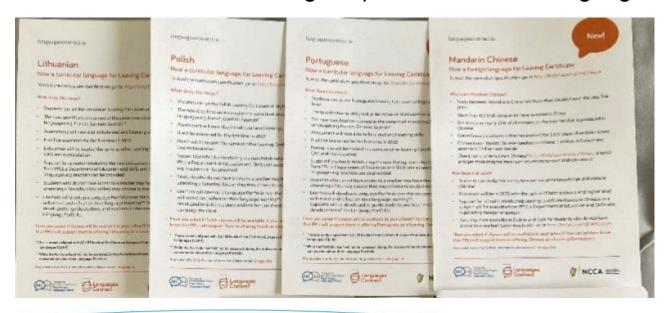
MFL Language and Culture



Senior Cycle

Develop a Leaving Certificate specification in Mandarin Chinese for non-native speakers, which would follow on from the junior cycle short course in Chinese Language and Culture.

Develop Leaving Certificate syllabuses for Portuguese, Polish and Lithuanian aimed at mother tongue speakers of these languages.





Supporting Teachers

- Pre-service and in-service continuing professional development for qualified teachers of new languages
- Establishing a community and platform for communication and collaboration among teachers of new languages in Ireland
- Training and public events for teachers of various backgrounds to boost professional communication and development
- Road mapping Initial Teacher Education to qualify candidates to teach new LC languages





Example: The blended Polish LC course

Jan-Feb

- •Initial needs analysis
- School and eTeacher recruitment
- •Course requirements and structure
- Agree suitable timeslots with schools

March-April

- •eTeacher CPD (blended learning teaching methodologies and digital technologies)
- eMentors identified
- Survey of needs (eTeachers, eMentors, school leaders)
- •Run taster lessons for prospective students

April-June

- Continue teacher CPD
- •Design Learning Management System (LMS) interface
- •FInalise student recruitment
- Survey of needs (students)

July-Aug

- Finalise course content and upload to platform
- Finalise timetabling of classes with eTeachers and schools
- School infrastructure in place
- •Test LMS and equipment





POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY

20:52

11.11.2020 OUR LADY'S COLLEGE GALWAY CELEBRATING FREEDOM OF POL







Incentives for sustainability

Incentivise schools to diversify their language offer, including by means of concessionary hours, where appropriate.

Dept of Education Circular 0006/2020

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna Department of Education and Skills



Circular 0006/2020

DIVERSIFICATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES PROVISION IN THE CURRICULUM

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF HOURS FOR POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS INTRODUCING
ESSER TAUGHT AND NEW FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 UNDER
LANGUAGES CONNECT - IRELAND'S STRATEGY FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION
2017-2026

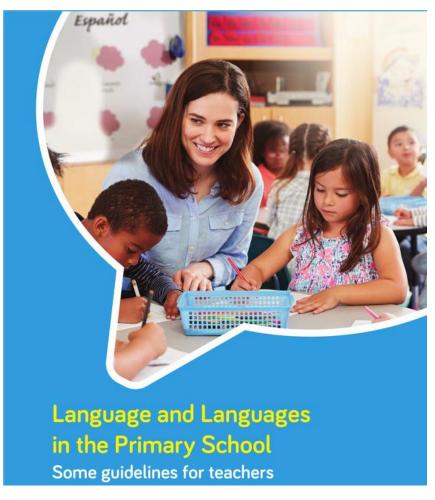
TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT, PRINCIPALS AND TEACHING STAFF OF POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARDS

REVISING CIRCULAR 0031/2019

Language	Number of schools receiving additional allocation
Japanese	4
Italian	4
Polish	2
Russian	1



Intercultural guidelines



Post-Primary Languages Ireland |
Supporting Multilingual Classrooms
Archives - Post-Primary Languages Ireland
(ppli.ie)

Home - An Intercultural Look at our Schools (ppli.ie)





Bonus Points for Languages

The higher education institutions (HEIs), in consultation with the Transitions Reform Steering Group chaired by the Department, will explore the issue of providing bonus points in Higher Level Leaving Certificate foreign language subjects in cases where students apply for higher education courses in language-related areas.





Mobility Opportunities

Consider ways to further encourage students in FET and HE to avail of opportunities on the Erasmus+ programme and to improve the language competence of students returning from the programme.

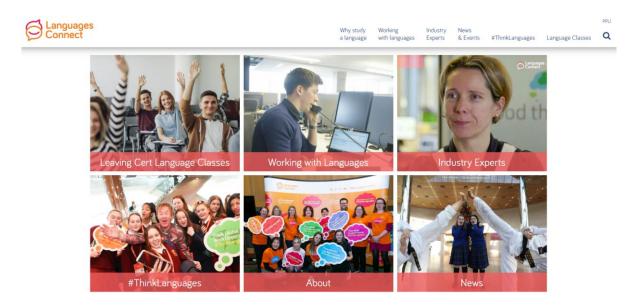




Goal 3: Awareness of Language Learning

Awareness Raising

 Conduct an awareness-raising campaign, similar to that organised for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), to highlight the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of language learning. Target school principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and students, and all stakeholders in the third-level sector





Languages Connect Awareness Raising

Raising awareness in a multitude of ways

- #ThinkLanguages annual TY celebration of languages with fun workshops, speakers, competitions and activities
- Supports and resources for Guidance Counsellors
- Languages Connect social media campaigns videos, competitions, tips and language learning advice
- Promotional materials and videos for teachers, students and guidance counsellors
- Student, Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Principal events and conferences
- Culture Night Languages Taster Classes in collaboration with the EU Commission

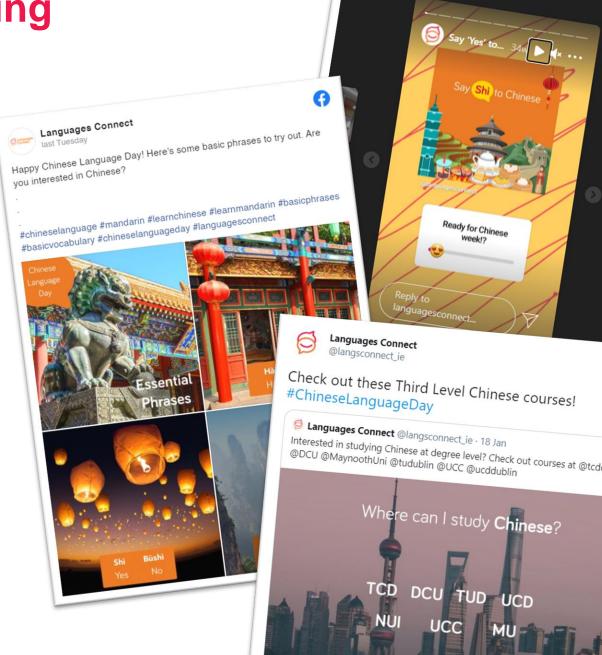






Awareness raising

- Languages Connect social media campaigns
- videos, competitions, tips and language learning advice
- Say 'Yes' to Languages
- Language Days
- #ThinkLanguages 2020 both in classroom and online
- Language ambassadors
- Working with languages



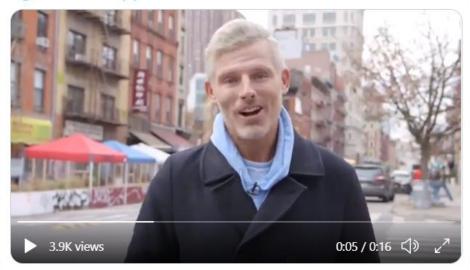
Instagram



Languages Connect

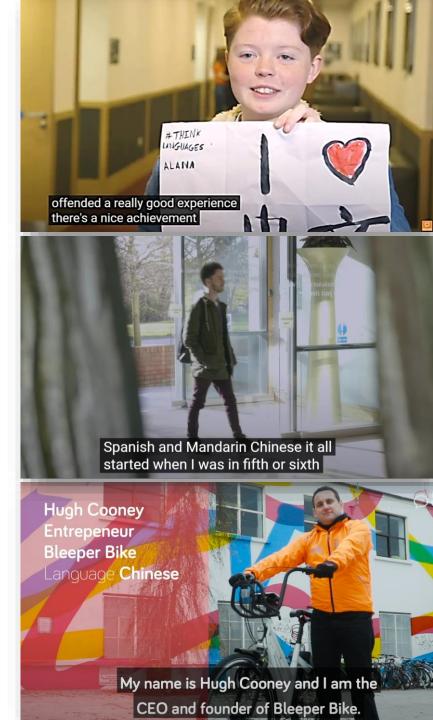


Exciting Announcement! Des Bishop will be our keynote speaker for #ThinkLanguages 2020! We will hear all about his language learning journey and fun adventures in China and the Gaeltacht.
#greaterlifeexperience #lifeskills
#globalworkopportunities #widercircleoffriends



2:30 PM · Nov 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App





Supporting Parents

- Information session for parents on new specifications
- FAQ on new specifications and dedicated information & resources page for parents on Languages Connect website
- Information and resources for parents on maintaining home languages with their children









Why the emphasis on schools?

On the basis of some recent research:

Parents believe that:

- teachers and friends are the most important factor when it comes to influence
- the experience of siblings is huge
- their children should do subjects that they LIKE
- their children should choose their own subjects



Parents prefer to adopt an advisory role unless they believe their child might face significant negative consequence as a result of their choices!

Younger children (6th class primary)

The main focus for this cohort is to successfully make the transition into secondary school.

 Very few parents put a significant emphasis on subject choices at this point and the aim is mainly on allowing their children to broaden their horizons, to find themselves, and discover their strengths and their preferences.



At my son's school they can try different subjects for a few weeks at the start of first year before they have to settle on their subjects and I think that's brilliant!

- Even Junior Cert is beyond the focus of many parents and students here, let alone the impact of their choices on Leaving Cert and beyond.
- As such, at this stage, parents see themselves as a source of advice and guidance, giving more weight to their children's preferences and whims, only stepping in when they feel the choices being made might disadvantage their children in the future e.g. not picking any sciences.

Older children

(3rd/4th year secondary)

At this stage, with Leaving Cert looming ahead, there is an acute awareness of the fact that the consequences of subject choices at this stage are much more significant.

- Parents' level of involvement to a large extent depends on how decided or undecided their children are in relation to what they'd like to pursue.
- Parents draw on their own academic and professional experience to provide advice, but acknowledge that there will be shortcomings here. Children are in a very different environment now and rely more heavily on schools and teachers for advice and guidance.



The concept of getting out of college and settling on a career for the rest of your life has all but disappeared these days...our kids could have 3 or more careers in their lifetime and it's important that they're equipped with a range of options to be able to adapt!

Young language ambassadors

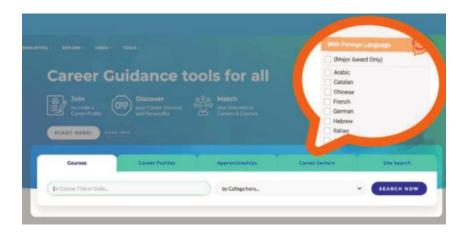
If you want to know more about college life while studying languages – both at home and abroad – check out what students and graduates have to say about their experience in University and all the great benefits of studying foreign languages at third level.





Guidance

 Establish greater links between post-primary schools and higher education language schools to support language learning, cultural awareness and to raise awareness of career options and opportunities for studying abroad.



Lesson/ Activity Plan

The aim of the task is for students to develop an appreciation of the importance of languages in the workplace. Below is a lesson plan that can be used in conjunction with the 'Languages in My Life' online activity in a guidance class. We also have a large range of videos available to view in our Working with Languages and Industry Experts sections.



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Collaboration with embassies & other bodies

Embassies, Cultural Services, Colleges, and Enterprise bodies at #ThinkLanguages

Embassy of Romania

Embassy of Poland

Embassy of Lithuania

Embassy of Latvia

Al Falah Islamic School, Islamic Foundation of

Ireland

Alliance Française

Goethe Institute

Irish Austrian Society

Instituto Cervantes Dublin

International Books

Campus France Ireland / French Embassy

TV5MONDE

Confucius Institute

Newby Chinese Ltd

Irish Film Institute

Radio Dublino

University College Cork

University College Dublin

University of Limerick

Waterford Institute of Technology

Technological University Dublin

Trinity College Dublin

Queens University Belfast

Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth

National University of Ireland Galway

Open University Ireland

SOAS, University of London

Maynooth University

Greenhills Community College

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Dublin City University

Cork Institute of Technology

DAAD, German Exchange Service

HEA/Erasmus+

Travel4Learning

Leir Language Academy

Living Language

Language Learning International

Language Camp West

GoElite Ltd

ID Languages

Exchange Ireland Language Programmes

Centre of Spanish Studies Valencia

Colegio Delibes

Equinox Education Services

Donegal Adventure Centre

Education First

EIL Intercultural Learning

Aventuro Ireland

Projects Abroad

Médecins Sans Frontières

European Commission

European Parliament

IDA Ireland

Habitat for Humanity

The Teaching Council

Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA)

Europass, QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland)

Crédit Agricole

Enterprise Ireland

Bord Bia

Careers Portal

France Ireland Chamber of Commerce

Advantage Austria





The full video can be seen on the Languages Connect Youtube channel.

Next Steps

- Develop resources for teaching and learning to use with the video.
- Share the video and parts thereof across social media





Awareness raising: HEIs

DCU SALIS Competition -Expressing Yourself in COVID Times



The School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies at DCU is giving TYs the chance to win an iPad and some other great prizes for showcasing their language skills!

You can submit an entry in 3 different ways:

- TikTok video
- Video/ Instagram story
- Comic strip

Trinity names winners of inaugural transition year language competition

Language ability one of the 'biggest skills gaps in the Irish labour market,' says organiser

O Thu, May 28, 2020, 06:02

Sorcha Pollak

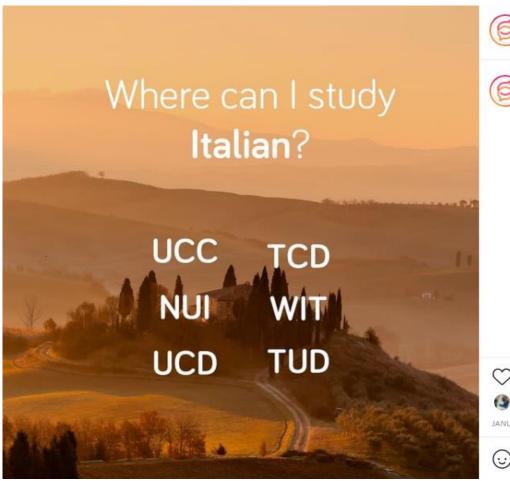


More than 100 transition year groups around the country entered the competition organised by Trinity College Dublin. Photograph: Paul Faith/AFP via Getty

- Transition year students from Tyrrelstown in Dublin and Kilfinane in County Limerick have been named the overall winners of the inaugural modern
- languages competition run by Trinity College Dublin to encourage more
- young people to study languages at third level.



Languages Connect on Social Media





languagesconnect · Following





languagesconnect Italian enthusiasts! Are you considering including Italian on your CAO? Check out courses at @universitycollegecork @trinitycollegedublin @witwaterford @universitycollegedublin @nationaluniversityireland

#thirdlevel #studyitalian #italian #italy #languagesconnect #thinklanguages











JANUARY 19







languagesconnect • Following



languagesconnect There's only 15 days left until the programme is launched for

@mothertongues_festival 2021! The Mother Tongues Festival is the largest festival celebrating linguistic diversity through the arts in Ireland. We can't wait to see what they have in store for us this year!

#mothertongues #mothertonguesfestival

#celebratediversity

#understandingdiversity

#thinklanguages #languagesconnect

#culture #art #learnlanguages











Liked by kate_tyndall and 27 others

MARCH 31









languagesconnect · Following

Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association



languagesconnect Attention secondary school students! The @Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association is giving you the chance to put your translation skills to the test! Translation entries can be made in 8 different languages and the deadline is May 5th.

You can find all the details here (link in bio):

https://www.translatorsassociation.ie/t ranslation-competition-2021/

#translation #interpretation #learnlanguages #studylanguages #leavingcert2021 #studygram











Liked by abbiecurran and 35 others

MARCH 25







languagesconnect If you're thinking about taking part in #irelandreads day, why not #squeezeinaread in another language? We have compiled a list of recommendations in 10 different languages for people of all ages and levels!

Learn more at the link in our bio: http://bit.ly/squeezeinaread

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#reading #languagesconnect #thinklanguages #librariesireland #readabook

9w











Liked by languagejo and 26 others

FEBRUARY 25



Add a comment...

'ost







languagesconnect • Following



languagesconnect Valentine's Day is tomorrow! What language do you have the most love for?

#languagesconnect #thinklanguages #learnlanguages #studylanguages #valentines

11w



ronantalkslanguagespodcast | love Spanish!



11w 1 like Reply



sadieritter Russian 🔮



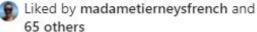










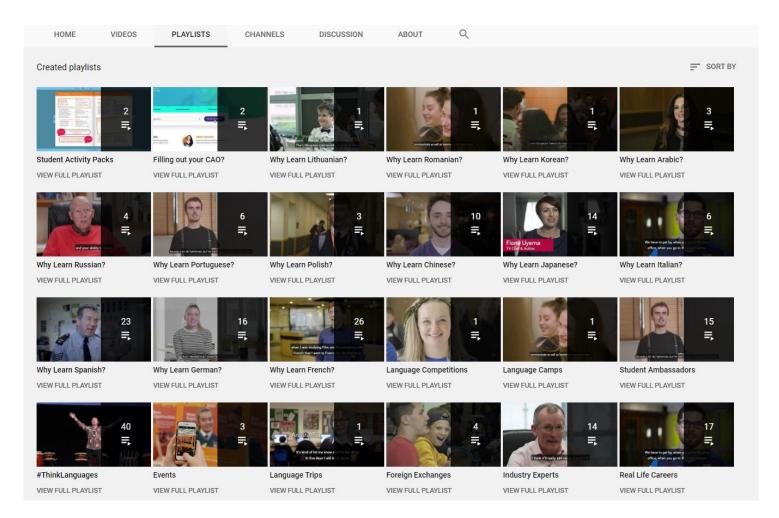


FEBRUARY 13





YouTube Playlists





Learning beyond School

- Through the review of the Systems Performance Framework for Higher Education ensure relevant indicators are developed and included to support the provision of a diversity of language learning opportunities as a national priority.
- Monitor the development and implementation of languages strategies and policies through the Strategic Dialogue process for HEIs

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Goal 4: Employer Engagement and Language Use

- Links between enterprise and post-primary schools
- Collaboration between employers with identified language needs and HEIs in their region including in curriculum and programme design.
- Employers to engage with students and education and training providers on opportunities for part-time work and work placements abroad
- Enterprise agencies and representative groups to encourage SMEs to implement a language management strategy (LMS) appropriate to their markets.



Language Use

- Promote information on and use of the CEFR among employers, in order to enable them to communicate their language needs more clearly.
- FET and HE providers to ensure the concept and purpose of an LMS is well understood and introduced into Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses and other Executive Education programmes.

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 Consider setting up a national awards scheme, which recognises and promotes excellence in both infrastructure support (including intermediary support) for SMEs and excellence in SMEs' use of LMS



Follow PPLI and Languages Connect

Follow us on Social Media for all the latest event, updates, competitions and info!

Twitter: @languages_ie

@langsconnect_ie

Facebook: @LanguagesIreland

LanguagesConnect.ie

Instagram: LanguagesConnect

Youtube: youtube.com/languagesconnect

Or check out our websites:

For teaching and learning resources:

www.ppli.ie

For Awareness Raising www.languagesconnect.ie







Thank you!



