

Wales/ Cymru report:

Swansea University

There is an upcoming conference in Swansea called “**From and for Wales: New ways of thinking shaping Modern Languages research**”. Following a successful bid for funding from the Institute of Languages, Cultures, and Societies (ILCS) Conference Grant Scheme, Swansea University’s Centre for the Comparative Study of Portugal, Spain and the Americas (CEPSAM), in coordination with the Swansea Translation and Interpreting Group (STING), is proud to announce the upcoming conference “From and for Wales: New ways of thinking shaping Modern Languages research”. The conference will focus on current research carried out by Wales-based ECRs in Modern Languages and Translation Studies in the context of the distinctive legal and policy framework in force in the country and aims to explore to what extent the research currently conducted in the country responds to or is influenced by this distinctive environment. The one-day conference will take place at Swansea University’s Singleton Campus in September 2023, and is being organised by a committee of ECRs from Bangor, Cardiff, and Swansea Universities. The organising committee currently includes representation from researchers working with Catalan, Finnish, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish and Welsh, but the event is open to researchers of any language across Wales. An open call for papers (released soon!) will invite face-to-face presentations from PGRs, and post-doctoral researchers based in HEIs across Wales. Papers are asked to address how the unique context in Wales informs the kind of research being carried out. We look forward to inviting you all to Swansea in September! For enquiries please email: j.r.turner@swansea.ac.uk

The open University in Wales

Helen Philips has informed about the outreach work that she with schools in Wales through *Global Futures*. Teachers Learning to teach Languages (TELT) is a CPD training programme run by The Open University in Wales and funded through Global Futures, Wales. TELT is a professional development programme that aims to increase and improve language

provision in primary schools, offering teachers the opportunity to simultaneously learn a new language and the skills to teach that language in the classroom. By collaborating directly with stakeholders across the school sector, upskilling and equipping teachers with the pedagogic and linguistic skills to embed languages in the primary setting, TELT helps create sustainable pathways for teaching staff to effectively include languages in the primary school curriculum, thus helping schools best achieve the objective of increasing the number of pupils learning international languages. <https://www.open.ac.uk/wales/en/our-work/schools-and-colleges/teachers-learning-teach-languages-telt>

Routes into Languages Cymru

RiL has been as active as usual:

- Through its varied menu of activities and events, **Routes Cymru has engaged with over 700 primary, secondary and FE colleges in Wales in the 2022-23 academic year** compared to 150 last year.
- Routes Cymru has been mentioned very positively in the ***Language Trends Wales 2022*** and its work is commended in the conclusions of the report. 78% of Secondary Schools taking part in the survey stated that they actively engage with the project.
- **Pupil Language Ambassador Scheme (Secondary Learners-Years 7-9)**. The live-streamed, interactive training was held in February 2023 in collaboration with Globe from Home and the British Council Wales. After learning about their role as Language Ambassadors learners took part in a virtual tour of Cairo, Egypt. Monthly challenges created by the Cultural Institutes have been shared with schools, and in July a celebration ceremony is being held to announce the winner of the PLA Team of the Year Award. 22 schools and over 125 learners from schools across Wales have taken part in the PLA scheme this year.
- **Welsh Government's Seren Programme (Secondary, KS3 and KS5)** Routes Cymru once again collaborated with the Seren Programme and Jesus College, Oxford to deliver the Seren Foundation Modern Languages event on the 29th and 30th March 2023. Over 180 year 8 and 9 learners from across Wales joined the sessions each evening and took part in an engaging Q&A with our Student Language Ambassadors, a virtual tour of Oxford University, a taster session on Japanese Haiku poetry and a presentation on 'Why languages matter'. In April, Routes Cymru Student Language Ambassadors took part in a live Q&A session on 'Languages and your Future' organised by the Seren Academy programme for year 12 learners.

MFL Mentoring Programme

Year 8/9 Mentoring

The project successfully delivered 3 modes of mentoring during the 2022-23 year: face-to-face, blended and online in schools across Wales in the 2022-23 cycle of mentoring.

The project will aim to work with **120 secondary schools** across Wales during the 2023-24 cycle. It will continue to offer 3 modes of mentoring: **face-to-face, blended and online mentoring**. Most schools will engage via face-to-face mentoring or workshops, with only a small number engaging via blended or online mentoring. Schools have chosen whether they would like to participate for both or one semester, and have been offered one of three different streams to engage with, which are:

1. **Year 8/9 Mentoring:** The mentor will work with a small group(s) of learners over a series of up to six mentoring sessions. These learners will be unsure about taking language for GCSE and sessions will be centred around the learners' interests.
2. **Linking Language Workshops:** The mentor will deliver up to five workshops each semester with different classes each time. Whole classes can engage with this stream.
3. **Both Year 8/9 Mentoring and Linking Language Workshops:** Each semester the mentor will deliver x2 workshops with whole classes, as well as work with a small group of learners over a series of up to six mentoring sessions.

Mentor and school recruitment for 2023-24 is now complete, with nearly 200 students applying to become mentors and 122 schools applying to participate.

Teaching and Learning Resources

The project continues to **create resources in support of the Curriculum for Wales**. The project team continues to finalise an expansive suite of modules that comprise of hundreds of hours of potential teaching materials for Welsh and English medium teachers in both the primary and secondary sector. The modules will provide practical support for implementing the Curriculum for Wales, offering inspiration for how to develop multilingual resources and mindsets and will encourage exploration and curiosity driven learning. The greatest barrier to publication of these resources continues to be the vast amount of translation that is required to offer all the resources bilingually, to ensure that we offer equal access to both Welsh and English medium schools. This will be remedied in the coming months when the Welsh translator joins the team. In addition to this ongoing work, the team are currently auditing and updating existing resources housed on the project website. It is hoped that the website update will be completed by Autumn 2023.

Other Updates

- On 13.06.2023, the MFL Mentoring team welcomed 60 primary school learners to Cardiff University School of Modern Languages for a day of workshops to inspire them about languages and university. The project would like to extend their sincere thanks to Cardiff University School of Modern Languages for providing financial support to provide lunch and drinks on the day.
- On 10.05.2023, the MFL Mentoring team provided a workshop at an event which intended to provide more disadvantaged learners with the opportunity to learn about the value of International Languages, in collaboration with Cardiff University's Widening Participation department.
- Throughout June and July, the team will host 7 interns, all of who have been mentors with the project.

CSM, 07/07/2023