

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to our first newsletter! We'll be contacting you from time to time with news and updates from the German learning and teaching world. If you have any comments or contributions, we'd like to hear from you. Please reply to: ogn@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk.

1. OGN is pleased to announce Round 2 of the Oxford German Olympiad 2014! Entries are invited by noon on Friday, 2 May, 2014. The competitions are open to all pupils in UK schools. No teaching input is required. There are three options for this competition: 1. Networking in German, 2. Kafkaesque Stories, and 3. German for the Future. Prize-winners will be invited to a prize-giving event in Oxford in June 2014. You can find more information, including full instructions and a registration form on our website: <http://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/oxford-german-olympiad-2014>

2. German Teacher Award

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany is pleased to invite nominations for the annual German Teacher Award, now in its 11th successful year. The winners will receive a personal prize and a certificate. The prizes will be presented at a special ceremony at the "Sommerfest der Deutschen Sprache" in June 2014, when the winners will be announced.

The purpose of the Award is:

- to recognise outstanding achievement by individual teachers of German in the UK
- to highlight and pay tribute to the work of German language teachers in primary and secondary schools in the UK
- to encourage the commitment of the winners' schools to modern language teaching.

Selection criteria:

Teachers will be selected who have made an outstanding and dedicated contribution to German teaching within the curriculum and beyond, e.g. through

- a record of successful teaching at a school, including innovative language teaching
- successful introduction of German teaching at a school, e.g. in a primary school as a first foreign language or in a secondary school as a new language
- established and successful link activities with Germany, e.g. projects and exchanges, bilingual projects, curriculum projects
- use of German language in subjects other than German
- local or regional outreach activities

More information and the application form can be found here: <http://www.london.diplo.de/gta>

NB: Only head teachers can nominate a teacher for this award.

The closing date is the 28th of April 2014.

3. Stephen Spender Prize 2014 for poetry in translation

Do you have any budding translators in your classes? The Stephen Spender Trust, in association with the Guardian, is running a competition for poetry in translation, with three cash prizes available for the under-18 category and an additional prize for under-14 year olds.

Entrants should submit an English translation of any published poem (or extract from a poem) from any language, modern or classical, together with a commentary. We're hoping you would choose German, of course!

More information can be found here: http://www.stephen-spender.org/spender_prize_2014.html?umid=15648123

The closing date is Friday 23 May 2014.

4. Language Trends survey

Languages are in the news again this week, following the publication of the British Council's and CfBT annual Language Trends survey. No doubt you'll have seen some headlines. The document gives a useful snapshot of current developments, in particular the response to the changes at primary level and the impact of the English Baccalaureate. It also highlights the crisis of language study post-16.

If you'd like to read the document yourself and draw your own conclusions, you can download it here:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/language-trends-survey-2014.pdf>

If you can't quite stomach the whole report, you'll find a useful four-point summary by the authors here:

<http://blog.britishcouncil.org/2014/03/24/survey-four-issues-with-language-learning-in-england/>

Mit vielen herzlichen Grüßen

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