

Dear Germanist and language colleague,

This bumper edition of our newsletter brings you news of two recent language reports, two competitions, and gives you details of how to get involved in shaping language policy in the UK.

1. Language Trends survey 2015

The British Council's and CfBT annual Language Trends survey was published just before Easter. Key findings centre on the effect of the introduction of compulsory language teaching in KS 2, the concern about variation in the quality of KS 2 provision, the growing trend to exclude pupils from language study, factors threatening language A'levels, the unfair representation of schools with high language uptake as underperforming, and the dominance of French in KS 2 (as opposed to declining numbers at secondary level).

If you'd like to read the full document, you can download it here:

<http://cdn.cfbt.com/~media/cfbtcorporate/files/research/2015/r-language-trends-2015.pdf>

If you can't quite stomach the whole report, you can find an executive summary here:

<http://cdn.cfbt.com/~media/cfbtcorporate/files/research/2015/r-language-trends-summary-2015.pdf>

2. Living Languages 2015

If this hasn't quite satisfied your appetite for language reports, fret not, there is more! The Guardian and the British Academy have published the Living Languages report.

Its seven key findings are:

- a) lack of language skills is bad for the economy
- b) young people are put off learning
- c) languages are about more than boosting your CV
- d) minority languages have a complex relationship with communities
- e) 6000 languages face extinction
- f) technology is a good match for languages
- g) learning languages is an enriching experience. (Who'd have thought?)

You can read about it in more detail and download the full report here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/apr/14/seven-language-learning-uk-multilingualism>

3. German Teacher of the Year Award – deadline 12 May 2015

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany is pleased to invite nominations for the annual German Teacher Award, now in its 12th 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 Cardiff on 3 July 2015, 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: IMPORTANT: Only Head teachers can nominate a teacher for this award!

The closing date is 12 May 2015.

4. Stephen Spender Prize 2015 for poetry in translation – deadline 22 May 2015

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.html

The closing date is Friday 22 May 2015.

5. Support languages in the UK

And finally, as the general election is nearly upon us, why not join the 'Speak to the Future' campaign and write to your MP to highlight the importance of policies which support language learning in schools, universities, businesses and the community? By writing to your MP you can support the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages' call for a 5-point plan to improve the UK's language capability. You can find more information, including an 'MP finder tool' and letter templates, here: <http://www.speaktothefuture.org/how-can-i-be-involved/>

Please feel free to forward this email to your colleagues. The direct link to join our networking database and subscribe to this newsletter is <http://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/german-survey>

As ever, we're always pleased to hear your feedback and comments. Please email ogn@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk, and also check out our website and Facebook page (links below).

Alles Gute und viel Glück für die diversen Wettbewerbe wünscht

Heike

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Oxford German Project – Joining up German Teaching in the UK

Visit our website: <http://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/>
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