

Item 10m: Schools

School Liaison Report March 2020

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Covid-19/Coronavirus

The Government's lockdown from 23rd March 2020 has meant that education establishments have moved to a remote delivery of education. The online offer and therefore the student experience vary significantly between institutions but also within institutions. A number of schools are still open to educate and look after the children of keyworkers. Concerns have been raised widely about the most vulnerable learners. In addition, the majority of teaching staff work remotely; many of these have to look after their own children whilst ensuring their students have the best possible support.

Examinations: The GCSE/A-level examinations for May/June 2020 have been suspended. Ofqual will be issuing an update by Easter to clarify the processes they will be following. Updates will be published on this weblink <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams> It is essential that the proposed processes are carefully assessed and implications for university intake considered at the earliest possible stage.

Support for teachers and learners: An active support network for language teachers has existed for some time. This has increased activity over the last few weeks. The Association for Language Learning in partnership with their corporative members and various start-ups produce a regular update on freely available resources to support language teachers and language learners remotely. It has been noted that the majority of available resources focus on French, German Spanish. The National Centre for Excellence for Language Pedagogy have released additional materials focusing on "NCELP approaches to remote teaching and learning" <https://ncelp.org/ncelp-approaches-to-remote-teaching-and-learning/> and "NCELP teacher CPD" <https://ncelp.org/ncelp-teacher-cpd/>.

Initial teacher education

Towards the end of last week, the Government issued an update to the ITT criteria, which outlines temporary changes to specific criteria, including that teaching experience in two schools has been removed. In the coming weeks, ITT providers will need to assess whether or not their trainee teachers meet the newly issued criteria. UCML, ALL and other language organisations need to monitor the impact on filling vacant posts but also the support that is available for this year's NQTs when starting in September (or whenever the academic year 2020-21 will commence). For more info on Criteria see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-criteria/initial-teacher-training-itt-criteria-and-supporting-advice> ITT providers are asked to continue recruiting for

2020-21 ITT intake but will have to adapt their normal recruitment practices to abide by social distancing guidance.

Language Trends Survey 2020:

The annual Language Trends Survey, now commissioned and published by the British Council, is currently distributed amongst Heads of Languages across the country at secondary level and primary language coordinators/heads at primary level.

Association for Language Learning (ALL) (www.all-languages.co.uk)

The annual conference for language educators, Language World 2020, was held in Manchester in March 2020 and was a great success. Next year's conference will focus on curriculum. Venue and date to be announced in due course. During the Language World 2020, the following colleagues were made ALL Fellows: Professor Norbert Pachler (UCL) and Dr Elspeth Broady for their services to the *Language Learning Journal*, Christine Wilding (first director of the Association, which was founded 30 years ago) and Karl Pfeiffer (formerly Goethe Institute). The Language Learning Journal (LLJ) has increased the number of issues to six (from January 2020 onwards).