

## **UCML Executive Committee**

Friday 29th April 2022 10am-12pm  
Via MS Teams

### **Item 9.a: Northern Ireland**

We wish to congratulate Janice Carruthers, Professor of French Linguistics at Queen's University, who was made a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French Ambassador to the UK at a recent ceremony in Belfast. The wider languages community in Northern Ireland celebrates this honour, which recognises the excellence of Janice's work in French language and in language policy throughout her distinguished career.

NICILT expresses thanks for UCML funding which has facilitated recent engagement initiatives with language departments in schools across the region.

In April, undergraduate student teachers and academic staff from Stranmillis and St Mary's University Colleges collaborated with the charity Saphara to host a 'Be the Change' project week with multilingual, migration experienced schools in the primary sector. Development of language skills and awareness of linguistic diversity were central to the project aims.

The work of the CCEA Languages Programme Board continues.

The Independent Review of Education is now underway and consultation with HEIs has begun. It is hoped that scope for improvement in language education can be highlighted in this process, paving the way for positive change.