

UCML Executive

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UCML Wales report November

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Routes into Languages

On Saturday, 22nd April, *Routes into Languages* launched the **Routes Cymru Primary Toolkit** at the Centre for Student Life, Cardiff University. Nazaret Pérez Nieto, Routes Cymru Academic Director, welcomed everybody to the event before the resource was officially launched by Dr Liz Wren-Owens, the previous Academic Lead of the project who commissioned the work, and Meleri Jenkins, Project Coordinator for Routes Cymru. Messages of support for the toolkit from Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Languages, and Colin Riordan, Vice Chancellor for Cardiff University were also shared. Presentations on other support and resources available for schools in Wales were delivered by the Consejería de Educación de España, the Institut Français, Confucius Institute Cardiff University, British Council Wales/ Cerdd Iaith, The Open University Wales and International Links Global/Taith.

Mentoring Project

The MFL Mentoring Project has received confirmation of two years of funding covering the period 2023-25 to support the Welsh Government's **Global Futures Strategy**. The project has received a significant uplift of funding for the year 2023-24 which means that it will be working across the following areas:

1. Delivering mentoring sessions across 120 secondary schools throughout Wales in partnership with 10 Higher Education Institutions.
2. Continuing the development and delivery of a bilingual social media campaign to spread positive messages about language learning, multilingualism and dispelling commonly held misconceptions about languages.

3. Continuing the design, development and publication of a suite of resources to support the transition to the Curriculum for Wales. These resources promote a multilingual way of learning and are being produced in Welsh and English.
4. Continuing to produce research on learner attitudes to language learning.
5. Continuing to develop partnerships which strategically target more disadvantaged communities where languages uptake is lowest. We are currently working with Reaching Wider.

The project is also launching a new scheme to promote a love of reading amongst primary school learners. This project is called 'Love Reading Mentoring' and is a partnership between Cardiff and Bangor Universities that aims to inspire young learners to love reading. You can follow the Mentoring Programme on Twitter and Instagram by following @MFLmentoring.

Aberystwyth: creativity to make language learning more attractive

Dr Alex Mangold, from the Department of Modern Languages, discussed in *The Conversation* the decrease in **uptake for modern languages in higher education** and how more creativity in the subject could help to make language learning more attractive, after the uptake in higher education has decreased by more than 50% in the past 15 years. At the same time, language provision in schools is erratic, with important regional differences. You can read the [*original article*](#) here.

Claire Gorrara

Professor Claire Gorrara has been awarded the **Chevalier dans l'Ordre Nationale du Mérite** for services to French language and culture and the promotion of multilingualism in Wales and the UK, in a ceremony that took place at the French Residency in London on 19 May.