

Global Futures Steering Group - Inaugural Online Meeting
24th June 2020 10:30 – 13:00

Present:

Glynn Downs, Chair of the Global Futures Steering Group
Domini Stone, Goethe-Institut
Dominique Böert, Goethe-Institut
Benoît Le Dévédec, Institut Français
Ariane Laumonier, Institut Français
Concha Julián, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Carmen Santos, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Professor Claire Gorrara, Cardiff University
Lucy Jenkins, Cardiff University
Meleri Jenkins, Routes into Languages Cymru
Dr Liz Wren-Owens, Routes into Languages Cymru
Penny Lewis, Estyn
Cathryn Billington-Richards, CSC Consortium
Amy Walters-Bresner, CSC Consortium
Carrie Fisher, CSC Consortium
Stephanie Ellis-Williams, GwE Consortium
Sioned Harold, EAS Consortium
Julian Nicholds, ERW Consortium
Ceri Griffiths, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Emma Muggleton, Caerleon Comprehensive School
Stephanie Grant, Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn
Helen Phillips, Open University
Dr Catherine Chabert, Confucius Institute
Dr Walter Ariel Brooks, British Council
Catrin Verrall, Qualifications Wales
Jane Peffers, Welsh Government
Gerard Pitt, Welsh Government
Eleri Goldsmith, Welsh Government
Manon Edwards, Welsh Government

Simultaneous Translation:

Aled Jones, Translator/Simultaneous Interpreter, CYMEN Agency

Apologies:

Roberta Guzzardi, Italian Consulate Education Office
Laly Alonso, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Selina Wells, International School Linking, Cardiff Council
Emily Daly, International School Linking, Cardiff Council
Lucy Carver, Ysgol Penglais School
Vicky Ucele, Confucius Institute
Beth Titley, Careers Wales
Nia Davies, BBC
Anna Vivian-Jones, ERW

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Global Futures Steering Group Chair, Glynn Downs (GD) welcomed members and first time attendees to the inaugural online meeting of the group. He introduced:

- Carmen Santos - Spanish Embassy Education Office
- Dominique Böert - Goethe-Institut in London
- Cathryn Billington-Richards - Central South Consortium
- Catrin Verrall - Qualifications Wales

Due to technical issues, Beth Titley, Careers Wales, was unable to connect to the meeting. We look forward to welcoming her next time.

- GD gave a special mention to Concha Julián, who is leaving the Spanish Embassy Education Office. GD acknowledged the excellent work that Concha has done in promoting the Spanish language and culture over recent years, as part of the Global Futures Programme and wished her all the very best for her future in Seville.

2. Setting the scene and aims of the day

Jane Peffers (JP) and Gerard Pitt (GP) provided a brief update on the activity of the Education Directorate over the past few months, the main focus of which has been to provide support for learners, leaders, governors, practitioners, parents and carers in dealing with the impact of coronavirus. Most teams have redeployed existing resource as certain activities are paused, however the Directorate has not lost sight of its wider commitments, including to Global Futures, during this time.

GP confirmed the aim of the meeting would be to provide an opportunity for colleagues to report back on how they had been managing and how their work had been affected by the current crisis. Attention would also be given to the proposed Global Futures Strategic Plan 2020-22 and how this might be adapted in light of current events.

3. Updates from the Steering Group

Consortia

Consortia colleagues reflected on their experiences of the current crisis. The general feeling was that this unprecedented period had been challenging but one which they, and the teaching workforce, had ably met. The collective response had been truly heartening. There were reports of focussed up-skilling and sharing of good practice, as teachers adapted their approaches to distance learning. Work plans are being developed and consortia websites extended and adapted to accommodate new distance learning practices and approaches, including the use of web based platforms such as Google classroom and webinars, to good effect. Live online sessions with pupils have had a good response.

Consortia colleagues reflected that the crisis has proved a major challenge for language teaching with many schools directed to focus on the core subjects. Various other challenges included technical difficulties from internet connections to operating software and leading teams remotely. The challenge of engaging vulnerable learners and where to allow them space was raised, together with the problem of limited access to IT equipment in some households. It was also noted that some learners were initially overwhelmed by the amount of work they had received across subjects. This has now stabilised with the benefit of more structured timetabling and learners acclimatising gradually over time to home learning.

The Language Institutes have also been adapting more fully to online ways of working and have seen high demand for online training and resources.

Benoît Le Dévédec (BD) confirmed that feedback on webinars delivered by the **Institute Français** (IF) had been very positive. Recently the Institute led a live webinar, hosted by the Association for Language Learning on 7th May, to share information on the IF's online support for schools and teachers of French in the UK. BD noted that the IF will develop an online catalogue of available webinars and welcomed suggestions from teachers regarding any future webinars they might like to see included. Ariane Laumonier (AL) gave a summary update of the various activities she has been undertaking, including several primary and secondary workshops. AL also signposted members to the Institute Français' (IF) digital library, 'Culturthèque', offering a range of free resources to support teaching and learning at primary and secondary levels. AL confirmed that Year 13 pupil and teacher resources were now available online. BD confirmed that two Welsh schools had been successful in this year's French Pop Video competition, Ysgol Bryn-y-Mor (Swansea) and Ysgol y Moelwyn, (Blaenau Ffestiniog).

Domini Stone (DS) and her colleague Dominique Boeert (Goethe Institut Advisor for German) gave an update on the recent work of the **Goethe-Institut**, including webinars for Primary teachers now occurring twice monthly. The live *Speak Up German* initiative for Yr 11/12 has proved extremely popular (100 students from across the UK attended the most recent of these) and further sessions will be arranged. The Institute hosted 80 teachers online in June, which included teachers from Wales. DS confirmed that *German and the World of Work* sessions will be available online and available as interactive sessions. DS highlighted that, as a positive upshot of the current crisis, the Goethe-Institut had been able to reach so many more teachers across the UK over recent months than would otherwise have been the case. The next online teachers' day is planned for the 3rd October (the Newsletter will include all the links).

Dr Catherine Chabert (CC) noted how heartened she had been by the resilience of teachers during the current crisis and confirmed that the **Confucius Institute's** online Mandarin for Teachers courses have been very well received. CC confirmed that there will be piloting to extend the Confucius Institute's offer to more teachers in September. CC referred the group to a wealth of online resources for teachers and learners that are freely available on the Confucius Institute's website. In latest news, CC confirmed that the Confucius Institute will be working in collaboration with the Welsh Government as part of its International Strategy, which sets out the aim to raise Wales' profile by exploring the feasibility of teaching Mandarin in secondary schools as part of a longer term strategy to establish Wales as a visitor destination and to boost trade.

Concha Julián (CJ) confirmed that the **Spanish Embassy Education Office** (SEEO) has provided online training for teachers during May-June 2020. The training sessions include a number of independent workshops based on different methodological aspects related to the teaching of Spanish. A blended learning approach will be adopted in future. Carmen Santos (CS) confirmed that there will be more online training sessions for teachers in September. CS

reported that there has been a great deal of interest in the sessions with no fewer than 700 teachers applying. There have also been recent collaborations of the SEEO with the Instituto Cervantes and Cardiff University's School of Modern Languages. Ongoing support for schools includes a free library of online books for Spanish learners, designed principally for use with primary school pupils aged 7-11yrs.

The British Council

Dr Walter Brookes (WB) thanked colleagues who had shown support for the University Council of Modern Languages' (UCML) campaign in support of the continuation of the British Council. Its work has been severely affected by the global pandemic, since a substantial part of its income is derived from teaching overseas. WB confirmed that the British Council's *Cerdd Iaith* website, supporting teachers to deliver language lessons (Spanish, English and Welsh) through the medium of music and the expressive arts, had been recently launched online and is now freely available for schools to access.

Cardiff University

Professor Claire Gorrara (CG) and Lucy Jenkins' (LJ) paper outlining changes to the Mentoring programme for the academic year 2020-21 (as a result of Covid-19), was circulated to members prior to the meeting. LJ explained that mentoring will be reconfigured as an online mentoring experience delivered through Microsoft Teams via Hwb, with the potential for limited face-to-face interaction dependent on the public health context. A total of ninety five mentors have signed up and the call put out to schools re engagement. Cardiff University is also planning to provide a set of online resources for teachers to use to support their teaching next year – whether that occurs in the classroom or online. Different ways of presenting resources are currently being explored. Lucy welcomed feedback on Cardiff University's proposals.

The Cardiff University team has also been running a project designed to support Year 13 linguists to explore a variety of languages and cultures in readiness for student life over a twelve week period since 11th May. The programme has included a series of 90 events, including seminars, lectures, language classes, university talks and resources. Over 300 learners have engaged - an excellent response.

Routes into Languages Cymru

Meleri Jenkins (MJ) confirmed that due to the pandemic, Routes Into Languages Cymru is currently looking to adapt its activities to deliver its programming digitally for the 2020-21 academic year. MJ reflected that it was disappointing not to have had the opportunity to run Routes Cymru events during the summer term.

The Open University

Helen Phillips (HP) confirmed that the Open University's TEachers Learning to Teach languages (TELT) programme's 2020/2021 registration documentation will be sent to all consortia for completion by September. The course will commence in October.

Estyn

Penny Lewis (PL) confirmed that Estyn has produced an internal document on blended learning and will share its contents with Welsh Government colleagues. Estyn will be looking at Post-16 next. PL also confirmed that no inspections are currently planned. Intelligence-gathering visits on how schools are bringing in the new curriculum, will ensure that key issues and challenges and effective good practice are fed back.

Qualifications Wales

Catrin Verrall (CV) noted that Qualifications Wales (QW) is currently looking to make changes to existing MFL qualifications. Although not public yet, QW will share news

more widely on this shortly. CV also noted that QW is actively seeking views on the International Languages offer and is keen to broaden the base of available International language qualifications. CV invited the group's expertise to help shape the future qualifications offer and encouraged group members to contact her directly in this regard. Sioned Harold (SH) suggested the possibility of holding focus groups with pupils in schools to elicit their views on what they would like to see offered in future. CV welcomed this idea. Qualifications Wales will be going to consultation on its high level offer in December.

4. The Actions of Global Futures 2020-2022

A copy of the revised draft *Global Futures Plan 2020-22*, was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The plan sets out a framework for our work over the next two years. GP invited feedback on the document and confirmed the intention to publish in September 2020. GP highlighted that a more detailed version of the plan outlining how WG and its *Global Futures* partners intend to meet the Strategic Actions of the Plan, will be published later in the year. The next step will be to consolidate the group's roles and responsibilities in relation to the Strategic Actions. Glynn Downs noted that actions will need to be fully accountable so that everyone is clear at each stage about what they have set out to do, how they are doing it and whether they have achieved what they have set out to do.

The revised aims and actions of the *Global Futures Plan 2020-2022* will reflect the principles of the LLC AoLE. Eleri Goldsmith noted that consideration was currently being given to how best to support schools onwards in preparation for roll-out of Curriculum for Wales, including international languages.

5. Date of next meeting and close

- GD confirmed that the next online meeting of the *Global Futures* Steering Group will be held on **Wednesday, 7th October 2020**, from **10:30a.m. – 12:30a.m.**

GD thanked the group and closed the meeting.