



The virtual world of languages – a treasury of support

Slide 1

The intention is that this PPT brings together some of the better known and less well known sources of support for language teachers in both primary and secondary schools. The world of support has changed dramatically in the last few years and continues to change rapidly. There are few, if any, national points of reference for language teachers to turn to and schools are encouraged to provide in-house CPD.

There are however many practising teachers, advisers and consultants who happily and generously share their work free of charge on their own websites, in blogs or via Twitter links. We have included some but have tried not to overwhelm readers.

Slide 2

This slide is included to support the idea that there is a wealth of resources buried in the educational sand. It does however link to another important theme in the teaching of languages – intercultural understanding

Slide 3

Few of us know about the charming tradition that happens every summer, all summer long along the Belgian coast. There is a link here to explain the tradition of bloemenwinkel or the beach flower shop. Belgian children and their visitors make and swap beautiful paper flowers for shells. In order to do this they have to talk to and negotiate with each other in one of the official languages of Belgium – French, Flemish/Dutch or German. Language is never the issue! And never impairs communication when deals are being done and friendships made.

Slide 4

This is simply to provide an indication of the type of sources we have used

Slide 5 and 6 – These will open in PPT mode only

We have also included the 3 main areas of support that were developed by CILT – the National Centre for Languages. Although these materials were produced some time ago they will need very little updating. They were written by Local Authority MFL advisers working with practising primary and secondary teachers. We have included the links to the archives where these are now “stored” virtually.

We strongly advise that you download what you need as soon as possible as we do not know how long the archives will exist

Slide 7

It is always worth looking at the subject association (ALL) site

Slides 8 and 9

These are more or less self-explanatory and Janet, Clare and Steve are some of the most prolific creators and sharers of the material in the country – if not the world. Janet and Clare share materials for a range of languages and Steve only French. Having taught French for 33 years, Steve Smith is both one of the most experienced and one of the most dedicated MFL bloggers around. His blogs provide in-depth lesson plans, complete with an explanation of the techniques in play and how they aid learning.

All they produce is high quality. All 3 share their thoughts on the changing world of language teaching and are often entertaining and sometimes provocative. Miss them at your peril!

Slides 10

This is a truly lovely blog! A real treasure trove for primary Spanish but all the ideas are easily adaptable for other languages.

Erzi is very multicultural: brought up in Hungary, studied in the USA and Spain and got married in the sunny UK. She has QTS, a DELE Superior and a university degree in Spanish Literature and Linguistics. She is a fantastically creative and generous blogger and tweeter

Slides 11 and 12

[Dom's MFL Page](#)

Written by teacher Dominic McGladdery, Dom's MFL Page offers a wealth of resources for French, German and Spanish lessons, often focusing on topical events like the World Cup or the Eurovision Song Contest.

[Angelika's German](#)

Native speaker Angelika Davey is a professional tutor and translator who always puts a unique spin on learning German, with blog topics ranging from idiomatic expressions relating to drinks to the parallels between crocheting and studying German!

[Box of Tricks](#)

Digital enthusiast and Assistant Principal at Surbiton High School José Picardo concentrates on exploring how teachers can use new technology to enhance learning, particularly in an MFL context.

[¡Vámonos!](#)

An active member of the #UKEdChat community on Twitter, Lisa Stevens recently co-hosted a special MFL edition of the online discussion series, with a roundup of the debate's outcomes currently available on her excellent blog.

[Flipping the Learning in MFL](#)

Teachers Javier Rodriguez, Sadie McLachlan and Rhiannon Dykes share examples of how the 'Flipped learning' technique, which asks pupils to cover learning materials independently before lessons so teachers can focus on working through problems with students, can be used in an MFL classroom.

[Modern Language Musings](#)

Each Modern Language Musings blog revolves around a different aspect of the learning process and advises on ways to create a more engaging lesson plan, from dynamic displays, to fun games for verbal practice.

[Tile Hill Wood School Languages](#)

The languages department at Tile Hill Wood School have created this captivating blog documenting the progress of their classes to help students feel more involved in learning. Through a focus on multimedia content and colourful vocabulary cue-cards, this is a great blog to share with pupils.

[MFL Meanderings](#)

Written by German teacher Jo Hardy, MFL Meanderings combines well thought out lesson plans with commentary on broader trends in MFL education, including a useful recap of the recent MFL Show and Tell event in York.

Slides 13 and 14

These people all have interesting things to say about languages and they often link to good blogs or websites

Slide 15

These are not necessarily linguists. However they are all worth following because they bring a real sense of excitement and encouragement to the world of education. You can find out more about them by looking at their Twitter bios. Or even a google search!

Slide 16 – just to remind us that this is about working together – please add more slides, ideas, resources and people to follow as you like – and do try to share with colleagues. In this case we are better together!



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