

Grand Union Language Network Newsletter

September 2025

Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new and exciting academic year. We are delighted to continue our work to support teachers and schools across our region with language learning and we are thrilled to announce some developments with our partnerships

From September 2025, Grand Union, Swanswell and Trent and Tame Language Networks (based at Tudor Grange Academy Solihull, Sidney Stringer Academy, Arthur Terry and Painsley Catholic College respectively) are joining forces to form the **West Midlands Regional Language Network**.

Working collaboratively, we hope to extend our reach across the West Midlands supporting language teachers. Bringing together our different areas of specialism and expertise, we will be offering CPD and development opportunities.

Each Network is leading on a national priority project, which our regional schools will be able to benefit from, ranging from KS2 transition, celebrating and supporting Home Heritage Community Languages to enhancing departmental leadership in Modern Languages, we hope you will find these interesting as we share our progress.

Getting to know the West Midlands Network

Grand Union



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GrandUnionLanguageNetwork

Swanswell



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Trent and Tame



Tracy
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Trent and Tame Language Network

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Event Schedule for 2025-2026

NCLE Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 8th October 16:00-17:00 	An Introduction to LEO An introduction to NCLE's new professional learning platform: LEO. Tour the interactive, flexible, and engaging professional learning platform in this webinar. Click to register
Grand Union Teachmeet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 22nd October 13:00-16:00 Register at Tudor Grange Academy 	Spontaneous Speech and the new GCSE speaking exam In person Teach Meet
Trent and Tame Teachmeet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 18th November 13:00-16:00 Register at Arthur Terry School 	During the session we'll consider how we can develop genuine spontaneous speech, with examples and emerging success stories shared by schools across the region. We'll also consider how to prepare students and staff for the upcoming mock speaking exams and engage in some moderation of sample speaking scripts. This face-to-face event will be run three times in different locations. Click on the school name where you want to attend the session (on the left) to sign up.
Swanswell Teachmeet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 3rd December 13:00-16:00 Register at Sidney Stringer Academy 	
Grand Union Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 13th November 15:30-16:30 	Embedding Phonics Click to register
Swanswell Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 14th January 15:30-16:30 	Supporting Home Language Qualifications at GCSE and Beyond https://Click to register
NCLE Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 26th November 16:00-17:00 	Curriculum and Assessment Review: Languages education fit for purpose? Hear from stakeholders from the languages community discussing the recommendations from the Curriculum and Assessment Review. Click to register
Trent and Tame Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 29th January 15:30-16:30 	Using AI for spontaneous speaking development Click to register
Grand Union Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 4th March 15:30-16:30 	Exploring different Curriculum models Click to register

CPD and Enrichment Opportunities

Free Primary Spanish CPD from the Consejería de Educación

Friday, 26th September

Face-to-face Spanish day for primary students: Years 5 & 6. Workshops for students with games and prizes.

Saturday, 27th September

Face-to-face training for teachers day in Coventry. Presentations and workshops with practical ideas for the Spanish class and a raffle for courses in Spain.

Free lunch for teachers is also included! Sign up [here](#)



Coventry's Celebration of Language and Culture



Wednesday 1st October,

Swanswell Language Network are pleased to be welcoming year 8 and 9 students from five schools across the region to take part in a day of language and culture in conjunction with Coventry City of Languages. Spaces are limited, and each school can bring 10 students.

Please complete this [form](#) to confirm your place.

Celebrating 25 years of the European Day of Languages. How can you raise the profile of languages in your school on the 26th September and beyond?

**Key Take Aways from Swanswell's CPD
Event
Tuesday 9th September 2025**

1 How can we win hearts and minds?

Before you start planning your activities for the 26th September, think strategically about the key messages you want to share throughout the year about the importance of language learning.

Consider how you can involve the whole school community in a celebration of languages. What role can the children and young people, the teachers, support staff, leaders and parents play?

This shouldn't just be in the language classrooms. Think about assemblies, tutor time and social time!

2 The theme for this year's European Day of Languages is 'Languages open hearts and minds'

There is a wealth of resources available on the [European Day of Languages website](#) with three competitions for students to enter.



2025: Languages open hearts and minds!

Languages open hearts and minds!



Create a poster illustrating the 25th anniversary motto of the European Day of Languages "Languages open hearts and minds!"

[View page](#)

An anthem for the European Day of Languages!



Help to create (and perform) a multilingual anthem for the 25th anniversary of the European Day of Languages!

[View page](#)

3 The team at the Swanswell Language Network have developed a suite of low-prep activities for you to use in your own settings. [They can be downloaded from the Swanswell Language Network website.](#)

Primary Activities

1. [Suncatchers](#)
2. [Story Time](#)
3. [Rock Painting](#)
4. [Biscuit Decorating](#)
5. [Learn a Song](#)
6. [Treasure Trail](#)
7. [Poster Competition](#)
8. [Registers](#)
9. [Acrostic poem](#)
10. [Snap](#)

Council of Europe also have produced an activity pack [here](#)

Secondary Activities

1. [Tongue Twisters](#)
2. [Staff Sticker Trail](#)
3. [Rock Painting](#)
4. [Biscuit Decorating](#)
5. [Bake Off](#)
6. [Treasure Trail](#)
7. [Poster Competition](#)
8. [Registers](#)
9. [Acrostic poem](#)
10. [Top Trumps](#)

Council of Europe also have produced an activity pack [here](#)

Please let us know how you get on. We'd love to see examples of your student's work!

4 What's already out there?



[Watch until the end to see a familiar face from Gavin and Stacey!](#)



[The Pearson website is a treasure trove of amazing resources including an interview with Stephen Fry.](#)



[This year's competition asks students to express in their own words how languages opens hearts and minds.](#)



Opening Hearts