National Consortium for Languages Education

Swanswell Language Network
led by Sidney Stringer Academy

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, social time and lunchtime!

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.

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

Funded by: Department for Education | Delivered by: UCL IOE - Faculty of Education and Society | In partnership with: British Council | In partnership with: Goethe Institut

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

Funded by: Department for Education | Delivered by: UCL IOE - Faculty of Education and Society | In partnership with: British Council | In partnership with: Goethe Institut

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.

Global School Alliance

This year's competition asks students to express in your own words how languages open hearts and minds.