

Key Take aways from the Supporting Home, Heritage and Community Language Learners at GCSE and beyond webinar which took place on Wednesday 14th January 2025.

Why Community Languages?

- 20% of secondary students in the UK have a home language which is not English.
- Boosts confidence and self-esteem.
- Champions heritage.
- Can pave the way to Higher Education.

Logistical Timeline

Year 9

Start to raise awareness about the opportunity to take a GCSE in a home language.

Year 10 Autumn 1

- Identify students who could take these exams. Student must be able to read in the language.
- Year Group Assembly – Explain the benefits and the work they will need to do. Direct them to a higher R+L past paper. These are available on the [Swanswell Community Language website](#).
- Share a letter to take home.

Year 10 Autumn 2

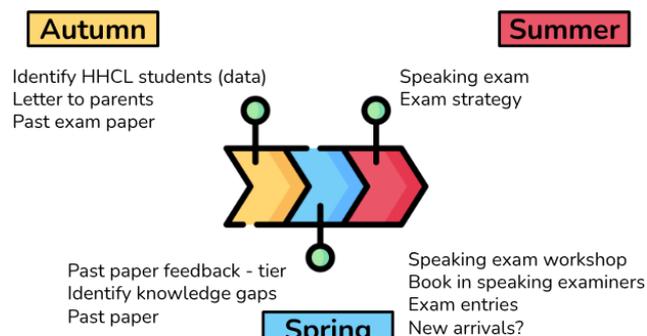
- Invite the students to bring their completed past papers to your classroom at lunchtime. Mark the papers together.
- This process helps to identify whether students can genuinely read in the TL.
- Direct students to websites that could help them to develop their own language skills at home. There are some suggestions on the [Swanswell Community Language Website](#).

Year 10 Spring 1

- Deliver ‘features of the exam’ workshop to all students. You can deliver generic content common to all specifications at the same time.
- Are there any new arrivals in year 11 who should also be taking these exams?
- Book in speaking examiners. Look at EMAS service / local schools / schools in your trust / local community groups / community language schools / mosques.
- Enter students for their exams.

Year 10 Spring 2 / Summer 1

- Provide students with any additional structures they might need to access the top marks on the writing / speaking papers.
- Conduct speaking exams.
- Check exam strategy for the other papers.



Points to consider:

- Are the students familiar with the UK examinations system.
- Do they have any skills gaps. Some students will be more proficient in speaking and listening than reading and writing?
- Check the specifications carefully. Different languages might have slightly different requirements.
- Students may need some support with some of the specific vocab on the specification – e.g environment, social issues.
- They will definitely need guidance on how to access the highest marks, particularly on the speaking and the writing papers.

Top tips for success:

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- Ensure students have access to past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports.
 - Try to get any mock writing papers marked. Explore options with members of staff in school who might speak those languages, your speaking examiners, or relatives. Remember, a relative can not conduct the speaking exam!
 - Encourage them to practise at home, with family members, teachers in school who speak those languages.
 - Make sure they know the vocab from the specification. There are links to quizlet sets of vocab on the Swanswell Community Languages Website.
 - Record a short powerpoint, sharing the structure and strategy for the writing and the speaking exam. By recording it, you can share it with everyone, including parents and family members.

A-Level Community Languages

- Supporting A-level candidates requires more input and organisation.
- Try to use the two years to share the content that students need to work through independently.
- Encourage them to use techniques from their English Literature lessons (PEEL paragraphs) to structure their writing on paper.
- There are very few study guides available to support independent learning of the novels and the films.

Contact your local Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) for support

What EMAS can do

Provide names and contact details of Instructors who have previously worked for EMAS and provided support for the exams

Provide contact details of community schools who may have teachers who could support instruction in the languages needed

Provide contact details of tutor agencies

Provide bilingual support via EMAS MLAs where possible to translate during prep lessons and sections of the exam (no exam training)

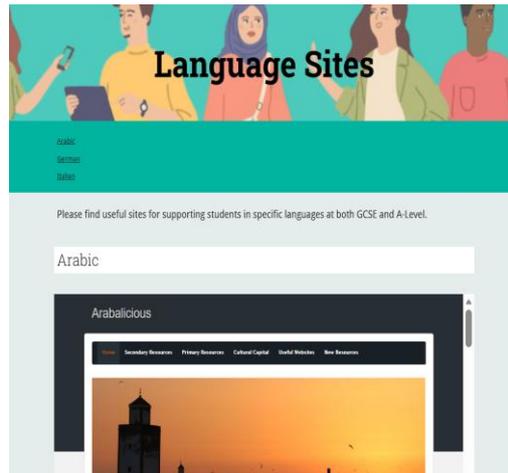
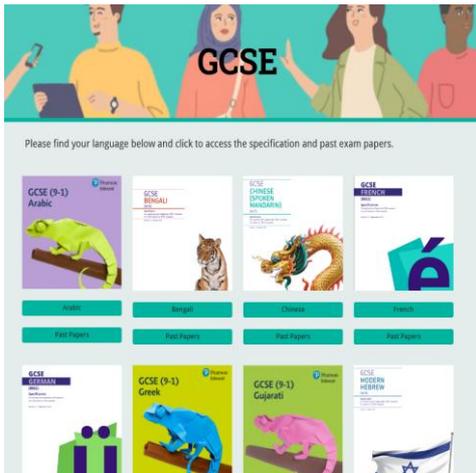
What EMAS can't do

DBS checks for Instructors

Update training for Instructors on current exam specifications.

Timetabling or paying Instructors

There is a wealth of resources available on the [Swanswell Community Languages Website](#).



[All the specifications for the different exams in one place.](#)

[Signposting to websites for independent study.](#)

[Curation of Quizlet sets to support independent use of the language at home.](#)

Offer from Language Nut

Supporting HHCL students

The team at LanguageNut are offering a free trial for any schools wanting to sample the support materials they have on offer for HHCL students. Email enquires@languagenut.com Reference: HHCL Webinar and they will get you set up and shown around.



International Mother Language Day – 21st February

The team at Swanswell Language hub have curated a plethora of resources to support you celebrate International Mother Language Day in your school. Download the free resources [here](#).

In-School Activities



UNICEF Primary Assembly Pack

Unicef have created 20 assembly ideas for IMLD. Find the pdf here.



Geography Quiz

Test your students' knowledge of flags, maps and how they link to languages.



Lunchtime Activities

A selection of short activities that could be run at a lunchtime.



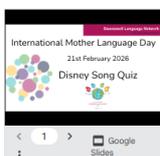
Lost in Translation Activity

A short activity to highlight the uniqueness of languages and the



Home Learning Activities

Research tasks, and other activities that can be done at home.



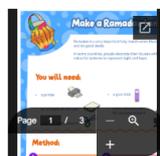
Disney Song Quiz

Great for a lunchtime activity, can students guess the language of the familiar Disney song?



Recipe Book

Students contribute family recipes from around the world!



Ramadan Lantern

Ramadan also takes place during February this year, so why not celebrate by crafting a lantern. BBCBitesize have made this easy to follow resource.

If you are looking for an in-person event, Swanswell are also running an event on Tuesday 10th February for students in years 6-8.

[Find out more.](#)

