



Happy New Year

**and welcome to your first newsletter of 2015 from Routes into Languages North East!
We hope that you enjoyed a well-deserved break over the festive period.**

The new term brings with it plenty of events for you and your pupils to take part in: a Chinese film workshop at Sunderland University, French and Spanish Study Days at the fabulous [Tyneside Cinema](#), the regional Spelling Bee final, the launch of the 2015 *Mother Tongue, Other Tongue* poetry competition and our annual Festival of International Culture. Full details will be available on our website a little later this month and will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

With GCSE option choices on the horizon in the meantime, don't forget that our Student Ambassadors can also [visit your school](#) and deliver bespoke presentations to inspire your pupils and their [parents](#) to carry on studying languages. We currently have dates available from February onwards.

1. Feature: Chinese Film Workshop at Sunderland University
2. Upcoming & On-going Events
 - School Visits
 - Parents' Evenings
 - Théâtre Sans Frontières at Arts Centre Washington
3. Continuing Professional Development

- Language World 2015 at Newcastle University

4. Activities & Resources

- SPEAKGLOBAL: A free classroom resource for KS3-4
- Linguacast & related resources

Chinese Film Workshop: Tuesday 17th March 12-3pm at Sunderland University

Designed for Year 11 pupils with no prior knowledge of Chinese, this event provides an introduction to Chinese culture and language through film. Following a film viewing with subtitles, pupils will take part in interactive language-based activities, including a Chinese language taster session and a Chinese calligraphy workshop. Spaces are still available and you can register your pupils online [here](#).



School Visits & Parents' Evenings - available from February 2015

Although currently in the midst of university exams, our fully trained Student Ambassadors are available from February until mid-March to visit your school this term.

Whether you are hoping to boost interest ahead of GCSE and A Level option choices or focusing on a specific topic such as employability, we are on hand to offer a [bespoke session](#) for your pupils - from a single class to an entire year group!

Whilst Student Ambassadors love speaking to pupils about language learning, at the same time we recognise that it isn't only them who may need convincing of the many benefits of continued language study.

We're on hand to support your school by delivering bespoke 'Why Study Languages?' presentations to parents, governors and school staff at Parents' Evenings, GCSE Options and Sixth Form Options Evenings throughout the school year. Simply click [here](#) to find out more.



The fabulous Théâtre Sans Frontières are heading to Arts Centre Washington on Wednesday 28th January for two performances *en français* perfect for KS2-3 learners...

Contes Mauriciens

Wednesday 28 January 2015, 10.30am + 1.30pm, Arts Centre Washington

Magic, mischief, wisdom and wonder encompass these two folk tales from the island of Mauritius. The tales draw on a wealth of Mauritian folklore, steeped in a history that brings together Madagascan, Indian, African and European cultures.

In **L'Arbre aux Gâteaux Tizan**, a boy with a coin, two cakes and a magic tree encounters a hungry witch and a heroic cat. How will the witch tempt Tizan down from the tree of cakes? Will Tizan be on the witch's menu for lunch? Can the cat save the day? All will be revealed.....

L'Homme au Banjo is a spooky tale that takes place on the night of the full moon when a banjo player looking for a party gets more than he bargained for. All becomes clear with the rising of the sun.

"It will have you rolling about screeching with delight and willingly calling out in French."
Teacher, West Sussex

"I thought the plays were brilliant and well acted. I had a great time and I would like to see more plays again." Pupil, Colchester

*"An enthralling, highly educational performance. The visual effects were tremendous."
Teacher, Northumberland*

Supporting KS2/3, the production incorporates simple French vocabulary and songs. A resources pack is available for teachers before the show. Tickets are just £5.50 with one free for every ten booked. To book e-mail matthew.blyth@sunderland.gov.uk or call 0191 219 3455.

Set to be a great boost to language learning here in the North East and nationwide, the **ALL Language World Conference 2015** will take place at Newcastle University in just over two months' time from 20th-21st March.

This year the theme is 'ALL Connected', emphasising the importance of joining together across educational sectors to achieve the best in language learning. You can read all about it online at the [ALL website](#). Here at Routes into Languages North East we are looking forward to hopefully seeing lots of you there!



Interested in exploring something new in your language classes?

Developed by the Open University academics Ursula Lanvers and Kristina Hultgren with logistical support from Routes into Languages North East, the SPEAKGLOBAL programme is designed to raise awareness of multilingualism in the world and cognitive benefits of speaking several languages.

The programme is free to use for any MFL teacher in the UK. Targeted at Key Stages 3 and, it consists of 2 sessions of about 40-45 minutes each, suitable for all abilities and students studying different languages.

The PowerPoint is accompanied by detailed Teacher Notes giving teachers all the information they need to teach this programme themselves. It has been tested in two County Durham schools with great success prior to general release. Click [here](#) to access the resource via the Routes into Languages website.

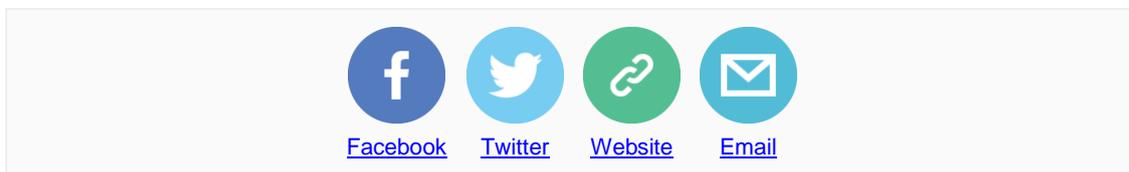
As ever, our [Linguacast](#) and related online resources are available every hour of every day for teachers and pupils and are perfect for classroom activities, revision and independent study alike. The site was developed by the Newcastle University team and is jam-packed full of useful resources and links.



Why not start by acquainting your pupils with the [Angry Family](#)? They're sure to bring a smile to any classroom!

As always, you can keep up to date with all our latest news on using the links to Facebook, Twitter and the Routes into Languages website below. If you have any queries about any of our events or activities please do not hesitate to email us, too, and we will do our best to respond as soon as possible.

With best wishes,
The RiL NE team



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