



#ThinkLanguages
Think Global Act Local

TY Festival of Languages and Cultures
Monday 27 November – Friday 1 December 2023
Teacher Planning Handbook



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Think Boosting
Life Skills
#ThinkLanguages

Think Global
Work Opportunities
#ThinkLanguages

Think Wider
Circle of Friends
#ThinkLanguages

Think Greater
Life Experiences
#ThinkLanguages

Thank you for registering for #ThinkLanguages - the TY festival of languages and cultures taking place in schools across Ireland from **Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December 2023**. You and your students will join thousands of TYs nationwide in hosting a #ThinkLanguages school festival that celebrates the many cultural, social, personal and career benefits of languages.

Schools can take inspiration from these benefits to help bring their festival to life and consider the global work opportunities, wider circle of friends, better life experiences and boosting of life skills that languages provide for. These #ThinkLanguages themes can help plan out the stages of your festival as you consider what activity to include.

2023 will be the sixth consecutive year of #ThinkLanguages and we are excited to have your school on board. This handbook will help get you started as you and your **#ThinkLanguages Student Champion Team** create a unique event for all TYs to enjoy!



A Career for EU
Gairm san AE

This year, you and your **#ThinkLanguages Student Champion Team** have the chance to win an enviable prize of a trip to the multi-cultural capital of Europe, Brussels, thanks to our friends at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Check out more details about this exciting prize on [page 16](#).



How #ThinkLanguages works

#ThinkLanguages is a great event for all TYs to enjoy, whether by helping to organise it or getting involved in the activities on the day as they celebrate languages and cultures!

It's all about teamwork!

#ThinkLanguages, like all great festivals, is about teamwork. We are calling on TY Coordinators, TY Students, MFL Teachers and all school staff to work together and create your own school festival of languages and cultures on a day that suits your school during the week of **Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December**.

We encourage you to appoint a #ThinkLanguages Student Champion Team as well as a Team Supervisor (TY Coordinator or MFL Teacher) to help organise the event.

We're here to help!

The #ThinkLanguages Support Team will also be on hand as your festival partner, providing festival kits and supports to help make your day a success! If you have any queries throughout your festival planning, you can get in touch with the team at thinklanguages@ppli.ie

f [@LanguagesConnect.ie](https://www.facebook.com/LanguagesConnect.ie)

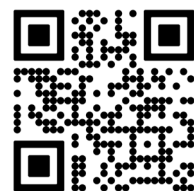
t [@langsconnect_ie](https://twitter.com/langsconnect_ie)

ig [@languagesconnect](https://www.instagram.com/languagesconnect)

Inspiration

You can find out more about what is available and get some inspiration for your festival on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages.

Highlights from previous #ThinkLanguages events, downloadable planners, tips and tricks, news and updates on this year's event and lots more are available!



A dedicated Facebook group for teachers is also available as a space to get inspiration, share ideas, and ask questions. Search for #ThinkLanguages 2023 group on Facebook to join the community of teachers planning their own #ThinkLanguages events and search for #ThinkLanguages on Twitter to get an idea of what other schools have done. The Languages Connect Twitter, Instagram and Facebook will also be a hive of activity and updates so be sure to follow us to see how other schools and organisations are celebrating #ThinkLanguages 2023



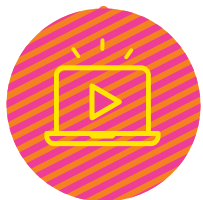
Join our Facebook Group!



Step 1

Recruit Your Team

- › Spread the word and get your students excited for #ThinkLanguages
- › Appoint your Champion Team
- › Assign roles and tasks to the team
- › Get researching!



Step 2

Plan Festival and Submit Your Festival Lineup

- › Review the array of supports available for #ThinkLanguages 2023
- › Check out what is on offer from this year's exciting partners
- › Recruit your own speakers from the school and local community
- › Complete the festival lineup template and submit to thinklanguages@ppli.ie before **Friday 10 November** to be entered into this year's Champion Team competition!



Step 3

Prepare and Promote!

- › Finalise all elements and requirements of your festival
- › Plan how to use your #ThinkLanguages event kit which will have a selection of materials and supports for your festival
- › Put up posters and consider any social media you want to post
- › Invite the local paper to come along on the day



Step 4

Your #ThinkLanguages Festival Kicks Off!

- › Kick off festivities with the inspirational online Opening Ceremony provided by #ThinkLanguages
- › Welcome your guests and speakers
- › Take photos and share activity on social media
- › Enjoy the day!

Key Dates

Friday 10 November

Submit Festival Lineup

**Monday 27 November –
Friday 1 December**

#ThinkLanguages Week

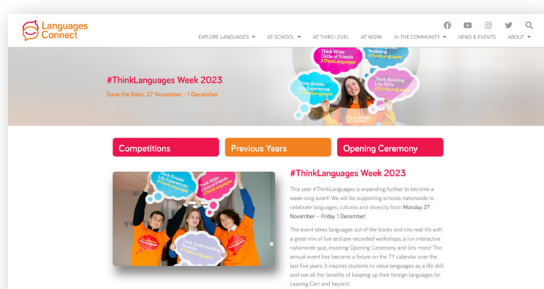
What we will provide

Before #ThinkLanguages Week 2023

The #ThinkLanguages Support Team will be on hand in the lead-up to #ThinkLanguages 2023 to help you and your students get ready for a great day of activities. In advance of the week, we will be making an array of supports available.

- Festival Event Kit with a selection of items to bring the buzz and colour to your festival including bunting, Champion Team t-shirts, fun promo materials and more!
- Dedicated Facebook group for sharing ideas and getting inspiration
- Information sessions to support planning and any queries you may have
- A lineup of recorded workshops to choose from
- Festival lineup templates that can be edited to your needs
- Contacts and information on how to get involved with our partners

If you have any queries check out the FAQ page on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguageweek



Check out more resources and teacher supports on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguageweek

During #ThinkLanguages Week 2023

The week of **Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December** is sure to be a hive of activity in schools across the country and to support, we will be making a variety of activities available for #ThinkLanguages teams to include in their festival lineup.

- **Opening Ceremony:** You will have access to a 30-minute video which will include highlights and insights from inspirational people who have reaped the benefits of languages.
- **Interactive National #ThinkLanguages Quiz:** Join the highly popular fun quiz and compete against schools nationwide to see who knows most about languages! A 30-minute live language-themed quiz will be running twice a day throughout the week - you can only enter once though!
- **Pre-recorded workshops:** A large selection of 30-minute downloadable workshops with a diverse range of languages and content included. Download the Pre-recorded Workshop Information Booklet on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-downloads. The videos will be available at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages from November.
- **Live in-person workshops:** Our #ThinkLanguages live workshops will be allocated in advance of #ThinkLanguages Week. These are always hugely popular with schools. If you register your interest in receiving a live workshop, we will be in touch in advance to let you know if you have been successful in securing a spot.

And there is more!

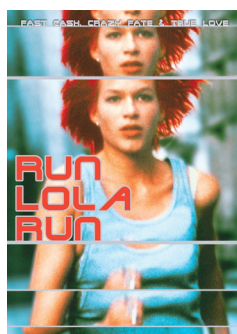
Thanks to our #ThinkLanguages 2023 partners - the Irish Film Institute, Business in the Community Ireland, and a number of Higher Education Institutions - schools will have the option to select some special activities for their festival lineup!



Festival Partners

Take your #ThinkLanguages Festival on tour! See languages come alive beyond the school gates...

We have teamed up with some great partners this year who are offering an assortment of activities that can be included in your #ThinkLanguages festival lineup. Let your students see languages come alive beyond the school gates!



#ThinkLanguages at the Movies!

The Irish Film Institute (IFI) is the national cultural institute for film. Through their various programmes in cinemas and online, they present audiences of all ages with the best new national and international cinema.

In line with their school programme, the IFI will be making carefully curated foreign language films available for #ThinkLanguages week. This will offer students nationwide the opportunity to see some of the best new titles, in the language they are learning. Films will be shown at the IFI Dublin and a network of venues across the country. They can also be streamed directly into classrooms - so all options are covered when planning your #ThinkLanguages event!



#ThinkLanguages at Work!

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) is a movement for sustainable change in business and has a suite of education programmes which build partnerships between schools and business in Ireland.

BITCI, along with their friends in companies nationwide, are celebrating #ThinkLanguages by helping students discover the many benefits of languages when it comes to a career. There may be a business near your school that is opening its doors for visits during #ThinkLanguages week or hosting a webinar.



Find out more about what is on offer from our partners at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners and their individual sites.

#ThinkLanguages on Campus!

There are many options available for studying languages at third level. This year for #ThinkLanguages week, third level institutions across the country are giving schools the opportunity to get an insight into life on campus when studying a language.

Your school could organise a visit from a student ambassador during #ThinkLanguages week, or a trip to a third level campus for a special workshop and to discover more about life as a language student. This gives your students the opportunity to explore college and career paths through languages.

Find out what is available from the third level institutions in your region by visiting languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners or contacting the relevant outreach officer of the nearest Higher Education Institute.

Atlantic Technological University	Diarmuid Ó Conghaile	diarmuid.oconghaile@atu.ie
Dublin City University	Dr Maria Loftus	maria.loftus@dcu.ie
Dundalk Institute of Technology	Marie Bouquet	marie.bouquet@dkit.ie
Maynooth University	Dr Catherine Leen	catherine.m.leen@mu.ie
Munster Technological University	Sheree Borge	sheree.borge@mtu.ie
South-East Technological University of Waterford	Li Ping Varley Monica Rudi Kent	liping.varley@setu.ie monica.rudikent@setu.ie
Technological University Dublin	Dr Susana Olmos	susana.olmos@tudublin.ie
Technological University of the Shannon	Geraldine McGrath	geraldine.mcgrath@tus.ie
Trinity College Dublin	Dr Rachel Hoare Daniel Mc Farlane	rmhoare@tcd.ie daniel.mcfarlane@tcd.ie
University College Dublin	Dr Derval Conroy	derval.conroy@ucd.ie
University College Dublin (Centre for Japanese Studies)	Dr Naonori Kodate	japan@ucd.ie
University College of Cork	Dr Silvia Ross Margot Spencer	s.ross@ucc.ie m.spencer@ucc.ie
University of Galway	Dr Francesca Nicora	francesca.nicora@universityofgalway.ie
University of Limerick	Catherine Jeanneau	catherine.jeanneau@ul.ie





Recruit your #ThinkLanguages Champion Team

To ensure success for your day,
you will need a team to help organise
your school's festivities.


Get your students involved!

#ThinkLanguages is a great way to get students involved in a school event, giving them the opportunity to bring their ideas to life and put their stamp on the day. The #ThinkLanguages Champion Team, along with the support of the #ThinkLanguages Team Supervisor, (Teacher/TY Coordinator), will organise all elements involved in running the festival. There are lots of roles to fill, so all kinds of talent will be required! We also encourage you to get other teachers and staff involved to help make the day a success.

We have provided some tools and supports to help recruit your #ThinkLanguages Champion Team and guide them on what tasks need to be completed to make your school's festival a success, including:

- Student sign-up sheet
- Task cards
- Position lanyards

All, and more, are available to download at
languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-downloads



When students actively participate in event planning, they feel ownership and pride, becoming more engaged and motivated in learning. Taking charge of tasks deepens understanding and encourages initiative.



**#ThinkLanguages
TY Festival of Languages
and Cultures**
Monday 27 November –
Friday 1 December 2023

**#ThinkLanguages
Think Global Act Local**

- Think Greater Life Experiences
#ThinkLanguages
- Think Wider Circle of Friends
#ThinkLanguages
- Think Boosting Life Skills
#ThinkLanguages
- Think Global Work Opportunities
#ThinkLanguages

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[@ languageconnect](https://www.instagram.com/languageconnect)
[youtube.com/languageconnect](https://www.youtube.com/languageconnect)

Language Connect

**#ThinkLanguages
Think Global Act Local**

Win a trip to Brussels!

National TY celebration of languages and cultures #ThinkLanguages is coming to your school and needs you!

and you want to help organise your very own TY festival where you will have the chance to bring languages out of the schoolbooks and bring them to life through a cool line up of films, quizzes, interactive live workshops and more, all for T's to enjoy? Do you have a chance of winning an incredible trip to Brussels?

By getting involved in this year's #ThinkLanguages Champion Team by signing up, you will be part of a range of roles needed to make your TY event a success, from Marketing and Production Manager and a brilliant Champion Team Captain!

...inspire vibrant cultures and inspire others to embrace the power of...

...your Language Teacher or TY Coordinator

...about #ThinkLanguages and what...

...are your passport to a world where will it take you?

**#ThinkLanguages
Think Global Act Local**

Activities Manager

**#ThinkLanguages
Think Global Act Local**

Champion Team Captain

Champion Team Captain

This role is about leadership, with supporting all members of the Champion Team to ensure a successful event as exciting and successful as possible.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > Get the Champion Team to work together and plan the event
- > Create a positive attitude
- > Be a spokesperson for the #ThinkLanguages Team
- > Work closely with, and be approachable to, the supporting teachers
- > Keep track of event
- > Remember! Leadership is being in what you and your team have decided for yourselves and then managers to fill it in the template found on the languageconnect website or in your support teacher's handbook



Next Steps...

Planning your Festival Lineup!





Now you know what's available from Languages Connect and our partners, it's time for the newly recruited Champion Team to get planning a celebration of languages and culture that best suits your school and facilities.


Think Local!

A great place to start is to research students, local businesses, parents, and community groups and consider who could speak or provide a workshop about their culture or language learning journey. Perhaps someone could demonstrate how to cook cultural cuisines, play heritage music, or speak about what languages have meant to their career.

Don't forget to promote the event on school screens, display the posters provided, and ask the school social media manager to share content about the event. You could even invite a local photographer, radio station or news reporter to capture the day and share it with the wider community!



More inspiration from student-led activities that schools have organised in the past can be found at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages and on the Languages Connect YouTube channel.



#ThinkLanguages Sample Festival Lineup

Time

Activity

9:00 - 9:30

Opening Ceremony

Provided by Languages Connect

9:30 - 10:00

Online Workshop: Russian and Ballet

Provided by Languages Connect

10:30 - 11:00

Guest Speaker from Maynooth University

11:00 - 11:30

Break & French Cuisine

11:30 - 13:00

IFI Screening

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch time

14:30 - 15:00

#ThinkLanguages Quiz

Provided by Languages Connect

15:00 - 16:00

Live Interactive Workshop

Provided by Languages Connect

To enter the Champion Team Competition, your Champion Team will have to submit your schools #ThinkLanguages Festival Lineup before Friday 10 November! This will include additional details such as any confirmed local speakers, trips to a local business, where in your school activities are happening and more - check out the Festival Map on the next page for inspiration and read more about the Champion Team Competition on [page 16](#).



Think Languages



Languages
Connect



Think Improved
Wellbeing
#ThinkLanguages

Languages
Connect

Your Festival Map

Workshop Stage

#ThinkLanguages Live
& Online Workshops

Think Greater
Life Experiences
#ThinkLanguages



Food Zone

#ThinkLanguages
Cuisines of the World



Craft Stage

#ThinkLanguages
gets Crafty



Film Stage

#ThinkLanguages
at the Movies



Irish Film Institute

Sample Festival Map / Location Key

Quiz Stage	Mr. Murphy's Room
Food Zone	Canteen
Workshop Stage 1	Sports Hall
Speaker Stage	Ms. Dunne's Room
Film Stage	Assembly Hall

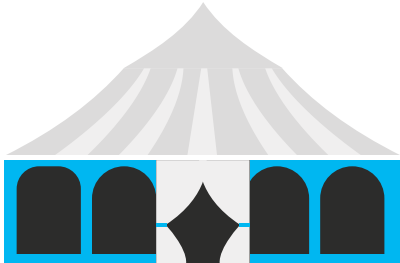
Opening Ceremony



START

Enterprise Stage

#ThinkLanguages
at Work



Think Global
Work Opportunities
#ThinkLanguages

BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY
IRELAND

Speaker Stage

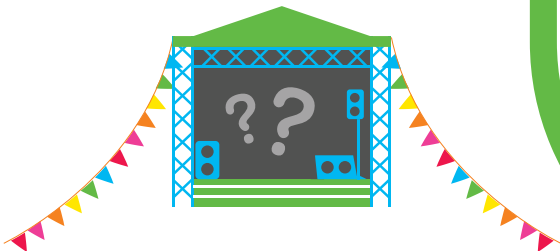
#ThinkLanguages
Special Guests



Think Boosting
Life Skills
#ThinkLanguages

Quiz Stage

#ThinkLanguages
gets Quizzical



Campus Stage

#ThinkLanguages
on Campus

Think Wider
Circle of Friends
#ThinkLanguages



Music Stage

#ThinkLanguages
World Music



Checkout our
Spotify
Playlists!





Host your Festival!

The planning is done, the lineup is confirmed, and the school is awash with a **#ThinkLanguages** Festival buzz as the day arrives!

On the day, there will be a few things the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team will need to do to ensure the festival runs smoothly.

- Prepare relevant rooms where activities will be taking place
- Greet any guests when they arrive at the school
- Check projectors and sound
- Set up and test online activities
- Plan how to distribute promo materials
- Take photos and videos and share online, making sure to tag [@languagesconnect](#) and [@langsconnect_ie](#) using the hashtag **#ThinkLanguages**
- Celebrate and enjoy the special day you have created for the school!





#ThinkLanguages Top Tips

5 Top Tips from last year's #ThinkLanguages Champion Teams

1

Get the whole of TY involved! It's a great opportunity to find out more about the languages spoken by all of your classmates.

2

Check out the pre-recorded workshop descriptions in advance of your event and prepare any required workshop materials early.

3

Increase student voice by sharing the workshop summaries with students and by having a vote to decide what to include in your day.

4

Be practical when organising your event. Do what you can but don't take on too much.

5

Always follow your school's safety guidelines and think of what is possible within your own school space.

5 Top Tips from the #ThinkLanguages Teachers

1

Attend the online Community of Practice to connect with other teachers hosting #ThinkLanguages, share tips and get new ideas.

2

Keep your own workshops at 30 minutes so they are easy to coordinate with the pre-recorded workshops provided by Languages Connect.

3

If guest speakers are coming to your school, reserve a parking spot for them if possible.

4

Have a checklist for the day. Divide students into groups and know which students are doing which workshop at each stage of the day.

5

Wear comfortable shoes as you could be on the move all day if you have different workshops running simultaneously!

There are also some handy student and teacher tip videos available on our social channels and website languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages which break down key things to consider for your event so be sure to check them out!

Win! Champion Team Competition



Win a trip to the Languages Capital of Europe!

This year's spectacular prize, kindly funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs as part of the *A Career for EU Strategy*, is an exclusive trip to the multicultural heart of Europe and home of the European Commission – Brussels!

The lucky winning Champion Team (maximum of six students and two supporting teachers) will have the opportunity to take in everything the historical

city has to offer including the magnificent buildings of the Grand-Place, its world-famous chocolates and waffles and a visit to the European Parliament for an insight into what *A Career for EU* really looks like!

Entering couldn't be easier – the Student Champion Team just need to submit their festival lineup by **Friday 10 November 2023**.

Check out how easy it is for schools to get involved:

1

The Student Champion Team prepares their festival lineup by filling in the template found on the Languages Connect website or printed in the back of this handbook. The Student Champion Team are asked to provide a short paragraph to explain their decision processes in developing this schedule.

2

Send your team's festival lineup to thinklanguages@ppli.ie by **Friday 10 November** to enter the competition.

3

All festival lineups will be reviewed and judged on how the Champion Team will explore languages and cultures throughout their event, inclusion of #ThinkLanguages themes and the involvement of the wider school and local community.

4

A select number of schools will be shortlisted for a visit on the day of their #ThinkLanguages event by our judging panel.

5

The top #ThinkLanguages Champion Teams will be invited to an exclusive event in January 2024 to chat with the judges about their #ThinkLanguages experience. The winning Champion Team will be presented with the coveted prize at this event.

The deadline for entries is **Friday 10 November 2023**. Be sure to keep an eye on our social media and for our email updates with important information on the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team Competition.





If your students would like to know more about a career in the EU, what their day-to-day job would look like, and what steps they need to take to pursue this career path, then check out dfa.ie/eujobs or follow them on twitter [@EUJobsIreland](https://twitter.com/EUJobsIreland)





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 [youtube.com/languagesconnect](https://www.youtube.com/languagesconnect)

 www.languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages

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