

#ThinkLanguages Week TY Festival of Languages and Culture

Dear Principal and Deputy Principal(s),

We are excited that you are joining us for another very important event in the school calendar, #ThinkLanguages Week, supporting us and the Department of Education with giving foreign languages the visibility they need among your students. In today's world, foreign language skills are of huge importance for students, regardless of what they hope to do in later life, due to the immense cultural, personal and career benefits they bring.

#ThinkLanguages is a vehicle to highlight this, raising the profile of languages amongst TY students and the wider school community in a national celebration that includes inspirational talks, fun language-filled workshops and more.

#ThinkLanguages is intended to:

- Excite and engage TY students about the languages and cultures around them within the school, wider community and around the world.
- Support teachers to create space in the school calendar to showcase languages and what they offer beyond the classroom.
- Promote inclusion and the many personal, social, professional, and cultural benefits of language learning.
- Encourage TY students to choose languages at senior cycle and into third level education.
- Engage with the local community to raise awareness of the benefits of language skills.
- Celebrate languages together in schools, universities, and organisations on a national level

Who is #ThinkLanguages for?

#ThinkLanguages is targeted at TY students. Students and relevant school staff should work together and create their own school festival of languages and cultures during #ThinkLanguages week, supported by us at Languages Connect. The appointment of a #ThinkLanguages Student Champion Team and a Team Supervisor (TY Coordinator or MFL Teacher) to support the students with organising the event is also required. The #ThinkLanguages Champion Team will have the opportunity to win a trip to the EU Parliament in Brussels.

How to get the wider school involved?

Staff are encouraged to get involved and support the activity in some capacity. This can come in the form of providing class cover for language teachers, using any personal language or cultural skills to provide students with a workshop, or simply integrating a modern foreign language into their specific subjects during the week.

When does it take place?

It takes place annually in schools across the country and this year it will be held from Monday 18 November to Friday 22 November 2024. The week-long format allows schools to select a specific day, or number of days, to celebrate. You can find out more at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages.

Thanks again for getting involved and look forward to seeing all the great activities your TYs get up to.

Sincerely,



Karen Ruddock, Director, Post-Primary Languages Ireland