**SAMPLE LOCAL PRESS RELEASE – #THINKLANGUAGES**

* **Download the file from Languagesconnect.ie**
* **Fill in the details relevant to your school so you can share with the local paper/radio station and/or use in your school newsletter.**
* **Don’t forget to delete the parts that you don’t need.**
* **Send some nice photos with your photo props too!**

**Students from [Enter school name] join over 17, 500 students nationwide in #ThinkLanguages festival of languages and cultures**

*Schools in every county in the Republic of Ireland take part in national celebration*

**[Enter location and date]**: The seventh annual #ThinkLanguages event is set to take place in over 200 post primary schools from 18th to 22nd of November with students from **[insert school]** joining over 17,500 transition year students nationwide in the celebration. The Languages Connect flagship event aims to highlight the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of foreign language learning.

The theme for the festival is “Think Global, Act Local” with students encouraged to seek out the multitude of cultural and linguistic diversity in their school, home, local community and beyond as inspiration for their individual events. Each event is tailormade by individual schools with the support of Languages Connect, an awareness raising campaign facilitated by Post Primary Languages Ireland.

Schools are encouraged to choose a day or days that best suit their timetable during the week. [Insert school name] will celebrate on [insert date/dates] where they are planning to engage in a range of activities and workshops that are sure to bring the languages of the school to life. Students have spent recent weeks preparing their event to ensure a successful and enjoyable day ensues. **[Add specific details of your school’s event and activity – edit copy to suit]**.

**[Include if relevant] [Insert School]** has also entered the #ThinkLanguages Competition this year where, if successful, they will be named #ThinkLanguages Champion Team of the year and win the enviable prize of an exclusive trip to the multicultural capital of Europe, Brussels. They will have the opportunity of experiencing the many exciting attractions the EU capital has to offer, thanks to competition partners, the Department of Foreign Affairs and their strategy, “A Career for EU”.

The Irish Film Institute and universities across the country are also getting involved as partners for this year’s #ThinkLanguages week with students having the opportunity to watch foreign language films in venues nationwide or visit a university who will be hosting language-related workshops for students to attend.

Event management packs and supports have been delivered by Languages Connect to **[insert school]** for this year's celebration, and an array of pre-recorded and live workshops have also been made available. A 30-minute Opening Ceremony has also been created with inspirational speakers including Dancing with the Stars pro, Ervinas Merfeldas, Fitness Guru, Ray Lally, Enterprise Ireland employee Rebecca Keogh and Content Creator Ciara Walsh providing an insight into their relationships with modern foreign languages and the immense value their skills have brought to their lives.

**[Add comments from your teachers, principal and/or students – you can use the comments below as examples]**

Speaking about this year’s #ThinkLanguages, **Karen Ruddock, Director, Post Primary Languages Ireland,** said “*It’s wonderful to witness the significant growth of #ThinkLanguages. This event is an opportunity for Irish students to appreciate the importance of learning at least one foreign language for Leaving Cert and into third level education. If Ireland is to remain competitive in Europe and beyond, our citizens will need to be equipped with a diverse range of foreign languages and learning a foreign language itself develops intercultural understanding and global citizenship which are so important in a world where we are now all connected.*

Funded by the Department of Education, Languages Connect was launched to support a strong, growing economy while also promoting a multicultural and inclusive society, which is a key objective of Irelands Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education.

For more information, please visit: [languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages](https://languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages/)

**-Ends-**

Languages Connect promotes the personal, social, professional, and economic benefits of foreign language skills to principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents, and students. Funded by the Department of Education and facilitated by Post Primary Languages Ireland, it is a key objective of the Languages Connect Strategy – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026. For all the latest updates check out [www.languagesconnect.ie](http://www.languagesconnect.ie/) or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/langsconnect_ie), [Facebook,](https://www.facebook.com/LanguagesConnect.ie/) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/languagesconnect/)

**Further Queries regarding [Insert School]:**

[Insert School Contact Details]

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