



#ThinkLanguages Week

Think Global Act Local

TY Festival of Languages and Cultures
Planning Handbook
17–21 November 2025

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Think Greater
Life Experiences
#ThinkLanguages

Think Boosting
Life Skills
#ThinkLanguages

Think Wider
Circle of Friends
#ThinkLanguages

Think Global
Work Opportunities
#ThinkLanguages

Welcome to #ThinkLanguages Week 2025!

Get ready to enter our 2025 competitions!

We're thrilled to announce two amazing competitions this year:

Champion Team Vlog Competition

Get your Champion Team to record a documentary-style vlog and show us your #ThinkLanguages Week. The winning team will jet off to Brussels, courtesy of our partners at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Don't miss your chance – see page 22 for all the details!

Individual Poster Competition

Unleash your imagination and design a poster that inspires. There are amazing prizes up for grabs – see page 21 to find out more!



A Career for EU
Gairm san AE

Thank you for registering for #ThinkLanguages 2025! This year will be the eighth year of the event with the celebrations happening nationwide from **Monday 17 to Friday 21 November 2025**.

The #ThinkLanguages team are looking forward to supporting you. This handbook is your step-by-step guide to all the resources and supports available for you to create an exciting and engaging festival of languages and cultures in your school.

The aims of #ThinkLanguages Week are to:

- > **Celebrate** languages together in schools, universities and organisations on a national level
- > **Support** teachers to create space in the school calendar to showcase languages and what they offer beyond the classroom
- > **Excite and engage** Transition Year (TY) students about the languages and cultures around them within the school, the wider community and around the world
- > **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

Your Starter Pack contains:

- > Planning Handbook
- > Posters
- > Lanyards to attach to Champion Team Task Cards
- > Partner Leaflets
- > Student Sign-up Sheet



Scan the QR code
to learn more about
#ThinkLanguages

How #ThinkLanguages works

#ThinkLanguages is an event for all TYs to enjoy, whether they help to organise it or get involved in the celebrations.

It's all about teamwork

#ThinkLanguages, like all great festivals, is about teamwork. We are calling on TY Coordinators, TY Year Heads, TY Students, MFL Teachers and all school staff to work together and create your own school festival of languages and cultures during the week of **Monday 17–Friday 21 November 2025**.

Appoint a #ThinkLanguages Student Champion Team as well as a Team Supervisor (TY Coordinator or MFL Teacher) to help the students organise the event.

We're here to help

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

Find us on social media

f @LanguagesConnect.ie

x @langsconnect_ie

@languagesconnect

youtube.com/languagesconnect

Free resources

You can find out more about what is available and get some inspiration for your festival on our website **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!



Scan the QR code to get inspired

Join our Facebook group

A dedicated Facebook group for teachers is also available as a space to get inspiration, share ideas, and ask questions.

Search for #ThinkLanguages 2025 group on Facebook to join the community of teachers planning their own #ThinkLanguages events and search for #ThinkLanguages on X to get an idea of what other schools have done.

The Languages Connect X, 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 celebrate **#ThinkLanguages 2025**.



Scan the QR code to join the Facebook group

How #ThinkLanguages aligns with the TY Programme

As you shape your #ThinkLanguages festival, let its themes inspire ideas that are both creative and purposeful. Aligned with the new TY Programme Statement, #ThinkLanguages offers students meaningful ways to explore and express the values at the heart of Transition Year.

Get inspired with our themes

The new TY Programme Statement is designed around the development of students moving from junior cycle into senior cycle, as they prepare for their future lives as local, national and global citizens.

Getting involved in #ThinkLanguages supports this purpose through links to the four 'Student Dimensions' which are the key foundations upon which TY programmes are designed:

- > Personal Growth
- > Being a Learner
- > Civic & Community Engagement
- > Career Exploration

The four themes of #ThinkLanguages support these 'Student Dimensions', as illustrated here.

For more information on how #ThinkLanguages aligns with the TY Programme Statement, visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages

Personal Growth

Learning a new language opens doors to experiences that go far beyond communication – it helps in building confidence, deepening cultural understanding, and transforming how students engage with the world.

Think Greater Life Experiences
#ThinkLanguages

Being a Learner

Mastering a new language goes beyond memorising vocabulary – it's about making learning enjoyable and interactive. Whether it's by watching movies in another language or joining a conversation group, language learning becomes a lifelong skill rather than a task.

Think Boosting Life Skills
#ThinkLanguages

Civic & Community Engagement

Knowing multiple languages helps build friendships with people from different backgrounds, and fosters inclusivity and cross-cultural understanding. It enables deeper conversations, appreciation of diverse traditions, and meaningful connections in multilingual communities.

Think Wider Circle of Friends
#ThinkLanguages

Career Exploration

Being multilingual is an asset in today's job market. Speaking another language makes professionals more adaptable, competitive, and ready to thrive in a globalised world.

Think Global Work Opportunities
#ThinkLanguages

Key Dates

- > **15 & 17 September:**
Online Information Sessions
- > **13 & 15 October:**
Online Community of Practice
- > **17–21 November:**
#ThinkLanguages Week
- > **1 December:**
 - Champion Team Vlog
 - Competition Deadline
 - Individual Poster
 - Competition Deadline



Festival Planning Summary

Stage Recruit a Champion Team

1

- > Spread the word and get your TY students excited for #ThinkLanguages
- > Appoint a Champion Team of six students
- > Assign roles to the Champion Team
- > See pages 6–7 for more details

Stage Explore resources and supports

2

- > Review the array of supports available for #ThinkLanguages Week with the Champion Team
- > Check out what is on offer from this year's exciting partners
- > Recruit your own speakers from the school and local community
- > See pages 8–16 for more details

Stage Plan and promote your event

3

- > Discuss the elements and requirements of your festival, including workshops, activities, and local speakers
- > Plan how to use your #ThinkLanguages event pack which will have a selection of materials and supports for your festival
- > Put up posters, promote your event on social media, and invite local press or radio to your event
- > See page 17 for more details

Stage Enjoy your #ThinkLanguages Week

4

- > Kick off the #ThinkLanguages festivities with our online Opening Ceremony
- > Welcome your guests and speakers
- > Take photos and share activity on social media
- > Record your vlog for the Champion Team Vlog Competition
- > See page 18–19 for more details

Stage Enter our competitions

5

- > Enter our individual poster competition by 1 December
- > Enter our Champion Team competition by filling out the entry form and finalising your Champion Team vlog by 1 December
- > See pages 20–23 for more details

Stage 1

Recruit a Champion Team

Select a #ThinkLanguages Champion Team to help organise your school's festivities and vlog about your school's #ThinkLanguages Week.

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 six members of 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. The student sign-up sheet from your starter pack can help you recruit team members.

There are six 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.

The student sign-up sheet, Champion Team task cards, and more, are also available to download on our site at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages

Empowering Engagement

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.



Benefits to the School and TY students

Schools that have participated in #ThinkLanguages consistently report that it brings a sense of increased energy around language learning and helps to raise the profile of the many cultures within their school.

TY students report that their horizons have been expanded as they learn about new languages and cultures that they had not previously encountered. Others felt proud to be able to share their language and culture with fellow students.

For Champion Team members it offers an opportunity to develop skills in leadership, as they work to deliver a comprehensive programme of events for their classmates. Team members collaborate with each other and take the lead on specific areas of the event.



Scan the QR code to access a video about recruiting the Champion Team

Your #ThinkLanguages starter pack contains student sign-up sheet, posters, task cards and lanyards.

Champion Team and Task Cards

Choose six students for the Champion Team. You will find task cards at the back of this handbook that contain suggested roles and responsibilities for these six Champion Team members. The task suggestions on the task cards are just there as a handy guide – you might have lots of different ideas too!

You can attach the task cards to the lanyards that are also included in the starter pack and hand them out to the Champion Team members.



Stage 2

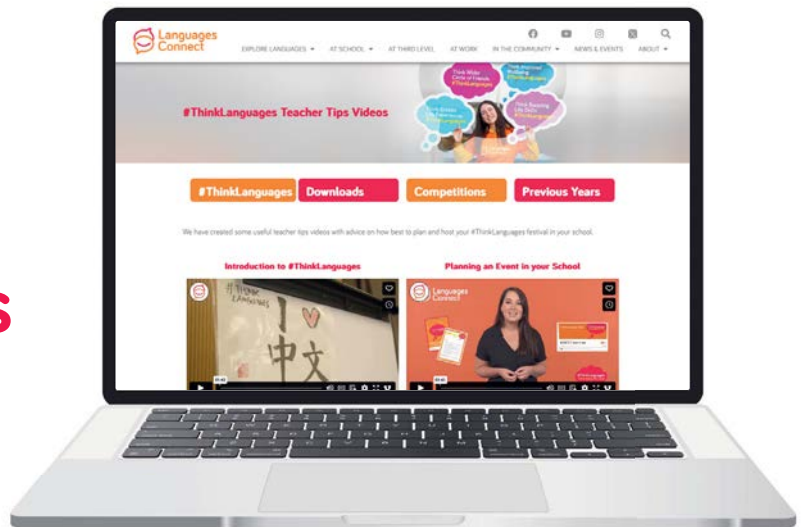
Explore Resources & Opportunities

Take some time with the Champion Team to explore the resources and opportunities available from the #ThinkLanguages Team and our #ThinkLanguages partners. The resources detailed on the following pages will help you plan, promote, and enjoy #ThinkLanguages Week within your school, and will support you in engaging with the #ThinkLanguages partners.



Planning Resources

These planning resources present opportunities to ask questions, share ideas, and get inspired by others.



For Teachers

- > **Facebook group for teachers:** Join the dedicated Facebook group where teachers can share ideas, ask questions, and get inspiration from others
- > **Information sessions for teachers:** Register for an online information session led by teachers who have previously hosted #ThinkLanguages to get some ideas and ask questions
- > **Communities of Practice for teachers:** Take part in this online forum for teachers to share ideas for #ThinkLanguages Week. Check our social media for information on dates and registration for Communities of Practice and information sessions

- > **Teacher Tips videos:** A series of short (less than 2 minutes) videos with easily accessible information about #ThinkLanguages is available online, including a dedicated student video to help recruit your Champion Team!

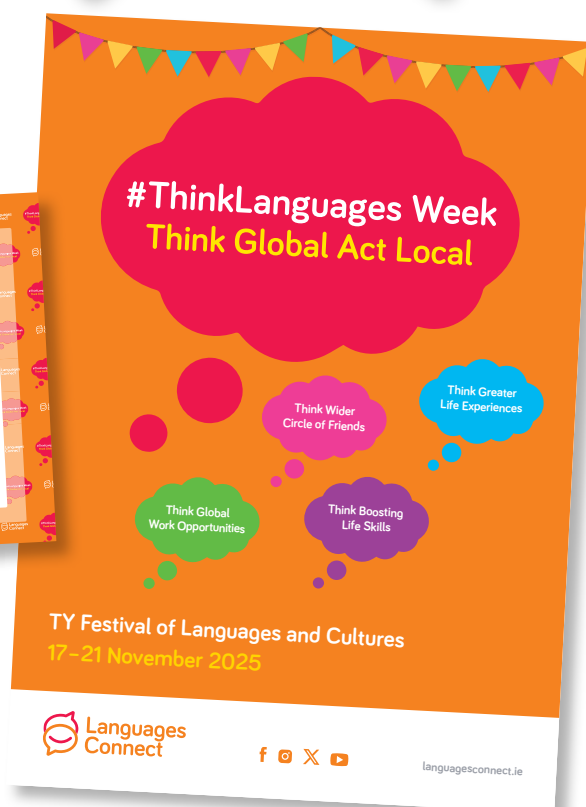
For Students and Teachers

- > **Champion Team Planning Tracker:** Download the handy planning tool to help you keep track of your to-do list on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-downloads
- > **FAQs:** Check out the Frequently Asked Questions page on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-faqs
- > **Email address:** Contact thinklanguages@ppli.ie to link with our support team on any queries

Promotional Resources

Use these resources to help promote your #ThinkLanguages Week festival.

- > **Posters:** You received posters in your starter pack. Put these up around your school to raise awareness of #ThinkLanguages Week
- > **Festival Event Pack:** You will receive this pack in early November. It contains a selection of items that will bring the buzz and colour to your festival including bunting, Champion Team t-shirts, fun language fold-outs and more
- > **Sample Press Release:** Download this sample press release at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-downloads. Edit it as appropriate and send it to the local paper or radio station to tell them all about your event
- > **Participation Certificates:** These can be handed out to participating students during #ThinkLanguages Week or as part of TY end of year celebrations. You will receive these as part of the Festival Starter Pack and they also can be downloaded from languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-downloads



Lineup Resources

Check out the resources below and see what you can include in your **#ThinkLanguages Week event lineup**.

- **Opening Ceremony:** Kick off your #ThinkLanguages Week event with this inspirational 30-minute video sharing insights from people who have seen the benefits of languages in their lives and careers. The video will be accessible in November on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages
- **Interactive #ThinkLanguages quiz:** Join the fun quiz and compete against schools nationwide to see who knows most about languages! The 30-minute live language-themed quiz will be running twice a day throughout #ThinkLanguages Week. Details and links for the quiz will be sent to registered schools in November
- **Pre-recorded workshops:** Explore these language and culture-related online workshops on page 11 of this handbook and further on our website
- **#ThinkLanguages Partners:** Our #ThinkLanguages partners at the Irish Film Institute, cultural institutes and universities nationwide have some great activities on offer to include in your festival lineup. Read more on the following pages

Live In-Person Workshops

The ever-popular live workshops will be allocated to a number of schools by the #ThinkLanguages Team. If you have expressed your interest at registration, we hope to confirm live workshop matches for a limited number of schools in October.

Please note: As these live workshop allocations are limited, you will need to accept the invitation strictly within the specified timeframe or the workshop will be offered to another school. This is to ensure that the maximum number of schools get the opportunity for live workshops.

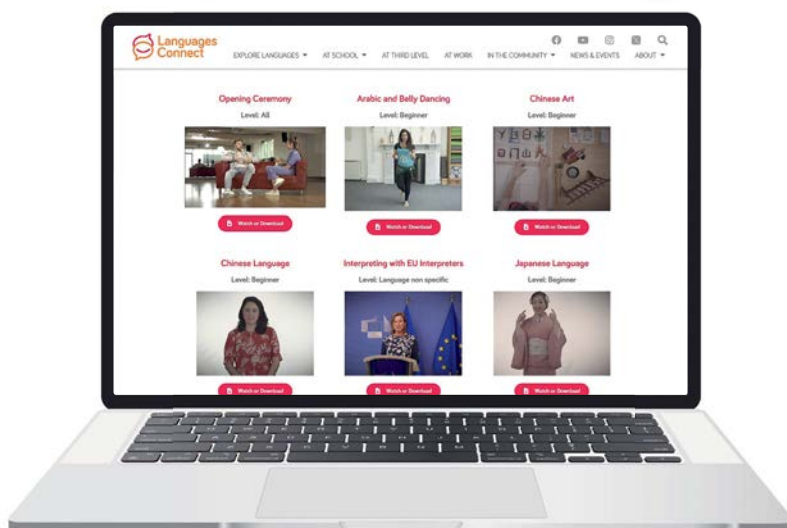
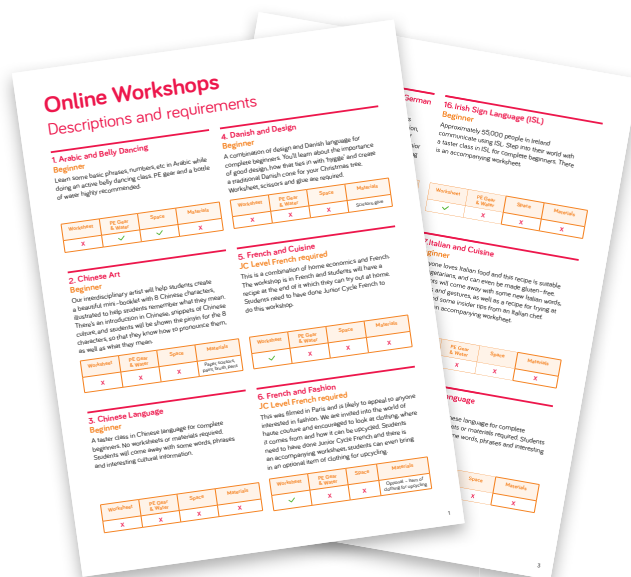


Online Workshops

We have a wide variety of pre-recorded language and culture-related workshops available that you can include in your event. Explore something different, or experience a familiar language from a new perspective! See the list of titles below.

Workshops available:

- > Arabic and Belly Dancing
- > Chinese Art
- > Chinese Language
- > Danish and Design
- > French and Cuisine
- > French and Fashion
- > French and Natural Beekeeping
- > German and Passive Housing
- > German Bread
- > German, Kaffee und Kuchen
- > Interpreting with EU Interpreters – General
- > Interpreting with EU Interpreters – French
- > Interpreting with EU Interpreters – German
- > Interpreting with EU Interpreters – Spanish
- > Interpreting with EU Interpreters – Italian
- > Irish Sign Language (ISL)
- > Italian and Cuisine
- > Japanese Language
- > Modern Greek Language
- > Polish Language
- > Portuguese and Capoeira
- > Russian and Ballet
- > Spanish and Flamenco
- > Spanish and Football
- > Spanish and Tapas



Champion Team Tip

Full details of what you need for each workshop, and the level it is aimed at, are available in a downloadable booklet at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-downloads

You could share the workshop list and summaries with your classmates and have a vote to decide what you include in your event.



Scan the QR code to download the workshop booklet

#ThinkLanguages on Campus

Universities across the country are getting involved in #ThinkLanguages Week 2025 by hosting events on campus, providing workshops to schools, making guest speakers available to schools, and more. Get involved to get a glimpse of what it is like to study languages at third level.

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

Schools and universities will liaise directly to organise activities for students during #ThinkLanguages Week. Find out what is available in your region by visiting languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners or contacting the relevant Outreach Officer of a nearby university.





Below is a list of the #ThinkLanguages University Outreach Officers

University	Contact	Email
Dublin City University	Dr Elena Lopez Dr Inmaculada Gómez Soler	elena.me.lopez@dcu.ie inmaculada.gomezsoler@dcu.ie
Dundalk Institute of Technology	Marie Bouquet	marie.bouquet@dkit.ie
Mary Immaculate College	Caoimhe Nioclás	caoimhe.nioclás@mic.ul.ie
Maynooth University	Outreach Officer	smllc@mu.ie
Munster Technological University	Sheree Borge	sheree.borge@mtu.ie
Shannon College of Hotel Management	Danielle Martin Emma Daly	danielle.martin@universityofgalway.ie edaly@universityofgalway.ie
South-East Technological University	Li Ping Varley Monica Rudi Kent	liping.varley@setu.ie monica.rudikent@setu.ie
Technological University Dublin	Isabel Martínez	Isabel.martinez@tudublin.ie
Technological University of the Shannon	Patricia Quigley	patricia.quigley@tus.ie
Trinity College Dublin	Zoë Coleman	colemanz@tcd.ie
University College Cork	Dr Silvia Ross Margot Spencer	s.ross@ucc.ie m.spencer@ucc.ie
University College Dublin	Dr Derval Conroy Dr Eileen Bowman Dr Anna Nunan Prof Micheal Brophy	derval.conroy@ucd.ie eileen.bowman@ucd.ie anna.nunan@ucd.ie michael.brophy@ucd.ie
University of Galway	Dr Francesca Nicora Suzanne Gilsenan	francesca.nicora@universityofgalway.ie suzanne.gilsenan@universityofgalway.ie
University of Limerick	Dr Erika Marcet	erika.marcet@ul.ie



Coláiste Ósta na Sionna
Shannon College of Hotel Management



#ThinkLanguages at the Cultural Institutes

Cultural Institutes are getting involved in #ThinkLanguages Week 2025 by hosting onsite events, providing workshops, hosting guest speakers, making online resources available to schools, and more. Take part to get a taster of French, Italian, German or Spanish.

Schools and cultural institutes will liaise directly to organise activities for students during #ThinkLanguages Week.

Find out what is available by getting in touch with the relevant point of contact at each cultural institute which have been listed below.

Cultural Institute	Contact	Email
Alliance Française Dublin	Alexandre Benserade	AlexandreBenserade@alliance-francaise.ie
Instituto Cervantes de Dublin	Lola Rodriguez Camacho	lola.rodriguez@cervantes.es
Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Dublino	Caterina Muratore	classes.iicdublino@esteri.it
Goethe Institut Irland	Andrea Battes	Andrea.Battes@goethe.de



For more details and to find resources available to you through our partners, please visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners



#ThinkLanguages at the Movies

Watch languages come alive through film! The Irish Film Institute (IFI) is offering a curated programme of #ThinkLanguages Week films. Choose from screenings at the flagship IFI cinema in Dublin, regional venues across Ireland, or stream directly to your classroom with IFI@Schools.

The IFI, Ireland's national cultural institute for film, offers a specially curated Schools Programme featuring top national and international films. Screenings take place at the IFI in Dublin, regional venues, and online via IFI@Schools.

This #ThinkLanguages Week, explore language and culture through film – plan a trip to your local arts venue, catch a mystery screening at the IFI, or stream directly to your classroom. For more information on the exciting offerings from the IFI, please visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners

Venues all over Ireland

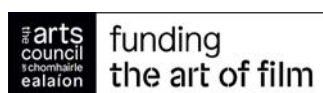
Last year, over 1,500 students watched a movie as part of #ThinkLanguages Week. Full details on this year's participating venues and how to book will be available at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners

IFI@Schools

If you can't make it to a cinema during #ThinkLanguages Week, you can stream films directly into the classroom. Lots of schools have availed of IFI@Schools, which brings top Irish and international films to students through a unique streaming platform.

IFI Information Sessions

In mid-October, the IFI will host an online information session for teachers who wish to learn more about their #ThinkLanguages offerings. Teachers will have the opportunity to view the trailers of the IFI films available during #ThinkLanguages Week and discuss the supporting study guides (where available). More information on these sessions will be available on our website, social channels and will be shared by email.



Films are subject to change.

#ThinkLanguages in your Local Community

#ThinkLanguages is an opportunity to Think Global and Act Local. Each year, TY students and teachers are surprised to learn just how many languages are around them, with fellow students and colleagues revealing language skills they weren't aware of!

Think Global, Act Local

Can you think of anyone who could play a part in your #ThinkLanguages Week event?

- > Conduct research to learn how many languages are spoken by students in your school, or how many students in your school are multilingual
- > Speak to other students, parents – could someone teach some phrases in their mother tongue, demonstrate making a meal from their culture, or play a traditional instrument?
- > Investigate local businesses and community groups – perhaps you can find someone who could lead a workshop, or deliver a talk on languages in their career



#ThinkLanguages at Primary School

TY students participating in #ThinkLanguages can visit a local primary school and show younger pupils that learning a new language in secondary school is fun and achievable. Use some of our quick language tasters to inspire and engage younger learners. For more information on how to run a language taster and for examples of fun ideas and games, visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages

TY Student Testimonial (Thurles, Tipperary)

“My most memorable highlight was visiting my local primary school. We brought with us #ThinkLanguages highlighters, pens and information booklets on France as part of our French Taster lesson. We taught the students a variety of French vocabulary in a fun and active way. We finished our French Taster class with French songs and a quiz. It was a most enjoyable experience, one that I will always cherish.”

Language Teacher Testimonial (Nenagh, Tipperary)

“The primary school visit was a huge success. It was lovely as teachers to observe our students teaching using the methodologies we had used with them over the previous 3 years and almost seeing mini versions of ourselves in action. Overall, a fantastic experience.”

Stage 3

Plan and Promote

Now you know what is available from us and our partners, it's time for the Champion Team to get planning and see how you can bring your festival to life.

Start planning

- Decide on which day(s) of #ThinkLanguages Week you will have activities
- Use the Champion Team planning tracker and task cards to support you in the organisation
- Discuss all the resources and decide what you are going to include in your event

Promote your festival

Don't forget to let people know about your event!

- Promote the event on school screens
- Put up the posters from the starter pack
- Ask the school social media account holder to share content about your event
- Invite a local photographer, radio station or news reporter to capture the day and share it with the wider community



Need inspiration?

More inspiration from student-led activities that schools have organised in the past can be found at languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages



Stage 4

Enjoy your #ThinkLanguages Week!

All that's left to do is to get the final details organised for your event! The planning is done, the lineup is confirmed, and the school is awash with a #ThinkLanguages Week buzz! There will be a few things the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team will need to do to ensure the festival runs smoothly.

- > Prepare relevant rooms where the 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 us and use the hashtag **#ThinkLanguages**

Don't forget!

As you plan for #ThinkLanguages Week and record your vlog, check out our top tips for a successful event.



Top 10 Tips for a Successful #ThinkLanguages Festival

- 1 **Celebrate your school's languages:** Showcase the rich linguistic diversity in your school and community
- 2 **Get everyone involved:** Ensure all TY students take part – languages are fun for everyone!
- 3 **Use #ThinkLanguages themes for inspiration:** Let the official themes guide purposeful planning, aligned with the TY Programme's Student Dimensions
- 4 **Partner up:** Explore fantastic workshops, speakers, and resources from #ThinkLanguages partners
- 5 **Involve your local community:** Visit primary schools or invite local professionals who use languages in their careers
- 6 **Plan a movie day:** Organise a trip to the cinema or host a screening of a foreign-language film
- 7 **Connect with local universities & cultural institutes:** Arrange visits or invite student ambassadors to share their experiences
- 8 **Organise with intention:** Use checklists, assign student roles, and map out workshop attendance
- 9 **Think logistically:** Prepare for visitors with signage, parking, and welcome plans
- 10 **Dress for the day:** Wear comfortable shoes – expect a busy, active schedule



Make sure to tag us social media using the hashtag #ThinkLanguages

f @LanguagesConnect.ie

x @langconnect_ie

@ @languagesconnect

Stage 5

Enter our Competitions

As part of this year's #ThinkLanguages festival, TY students are invited to take part in two competitions. Prizes for these competitions are courtesy of our partner, the Department of Foreign Affairs as part of the A Career for EU Strategy.

Both competitions offer TY students a chance to reflect on the role of languages in their lives and showcase their learning in a meaningful way. Full details and entry guidelines are provided on the following pages.

Individual Poster Competition

The Individual Poster Competition encourages TY students to visually express their personal connection to language learning with a particular focus on how languages can support future career paths.

Champion Team Vlog Competition

The Champion Team Vlog Competition invites the school's chosen Champion Team of six TY students to document their #ThinkLanguages festival experience through video. Entries should highlight the official themes (see page 3), showcase the languages and cultures represented in their school, and capture the energy and activity of the week.



A Career for EU
Gairm san AE

Could this be A Career for EU?

Have you ever considered working in the EU? The range of careers to choose from is wider than you might realise. The Department of Foreign Affairs' A Career for EU Strategy is working to increase Irish representation in the EU institutions.

If you would like to know more about a career in the EU, what the day-to-day would look like, what steps you need to take to pursue this exciting career path, and what supports are offered, check out ireland.ie/eu-jobs or follow them on X @EUJobsIreland



Individual Poster Competition

As part of #ThinkLanguages Week, students across Ireland will be celebrating languages and the opportunities they create. Now, it's your turn to showcase your passion through an inspiring and visually striking poster! We're inviting all TY students to create either a hand-drawn or digital (non-AI generated) poster, highlighting the following theme.

Think Global Work Opportunities

Your poster design should creatively explore languages through the theme of **Think Global Work Opportunities**. For more details and full terms and conditions, visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-competitions

Think Global
Work Opportunities
#ThinkLanguages



How to Enter

- > Create an original poster in A4 format based on our **Think Global Work Opportunities** theme. This can be hand-drawn or digitally created. AI generated posters are strictly prohibited
- > Incorporate at least one language other than English or Irish in your design
- > Make it visually engaging – use colours, symbols, and text creatively
- > Submit your poster as a high-quality image or PDF via our application form by 5pm on **Monday 1 December 2025** on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-competitions

Judging Criteria

The judges will look for a creative, engaging, and inspiring poster. Your entry will be assessed on:

- > Creativity & Design: Originality, artistic quality, and visual impact
- > Message & Theme: How well your poster investigates and conveys the theme
- > Language Inclusion: Effective use of another language beyond English or Irish

Next Steps: Prizes & #ThinkLanguages National Final

- > The top three entries will each receive a great voucher!
- > The winners of the poster competition will be selected and invited to the #ThinkLanguages National Final in January 2026, where they will be asked to display and showcase their posters at the final and share the inspiration behind their creation

Champion Team Vlog Competition

We're inviting your Champion Team to create a short, engaging vlog that captures the highlights of your #ThinkLanguages Week experience – showcasing how languages were celebrated in the school and community throughout the week. Whether you're learning a new language, exploring different cultures, or thinking about future careers, enter the Champion Team Competition with your vlog to be in with a chance to win a trip to Brussels!

How the competition works

- > Form your Champion team of six TY students and assign roles
- > Plan and enjoy your #ThinkLanguages Week
- > Create a 3-minute documentary-style vlog capturing your festival experience
- > Include at least one language other than English or Irish
- > Each team member should share their personal contribution, activities, and decision-making insights in the Champion Team Vlog Competition Entry Form
- > Submit your vlog and entry form via WeTransfer by **5pm, Monday 1 December 2025**
- > For further details visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-competitions
- > One vlog entry per school

How the competition is judged

All entries will be reviewed and judged on:

- > Exploration of languages and cultures
- > Clear use of #ThinkLanguages themes (see page 3)
- > Effective use of another language other than English or Irish
- > Engagement with school and local community
- > Event promotion and inclusion of partner activities
- > Adherence to 3-minute time limit

Next Steps: Prizes &

#ThinkLanguages National Final

- > The top three teams will be invited to present their learnings at the #ThinkLanguages National Final in January 2026
- > The winning team will be presented with the grand prize: a trip to Brussels!



Champion Team Vlog Competition Entry Form

#ThinkLanguages Week Think Global Act Local

Complete this form by submitting an outline of each Champion Team member's #ThinkLanguages Week, and notes on planning and organisation for your event. Follow the instruction details to be in with a chance to win a trip to Brussels!

* This form must be filled in by Champion Team members. Please ensure you enter in a minimum of 3 languages. If you are unable to enter in 3 languages, please email languagesconnect@languagesconnect.ie for further details. Entries must be turned in by 5pm on Monday 1 December 2025.

* One entry per school please.

* Submit your completed entry form and vlog through our WeTransfer portal (see below) by 5pm on Monday 1 December 2025.

* The grand prize for the winning team is a trip to Brussels to attend the Champion Team National Final in January 2026.

Section 1 School details

About your school

School name

School address

Supporting teachers

Teacher 1 name

Teacher 2 name

When is/are your event/s?

Please select all that apply:

☐ Monday 17 November 2025

☐ Tuesday 18 November 2025

☐ Wednesday 19 November 2025

☐ Thursday 20 November 2025

☐ Friday 21 November 2025

Number of participating students?

How many students took part in your #ThinkLanguages event?

Win a trip to Brussels

The spectacular prize for this year's Champion Team Vlog Competition is an exciting trip to Brussels. This has been kindly sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs as part of the A Career for EU Strategy.

About the prize

The once-in-a lifetime trip to the multicultural heart of Europe includes the following:

- > Flights and two nights' accommodation for the lucky winning team (maximum of six students and two supporting teachers)
- > Visit to the European Commission for an insight into what a career for EU is really like!
- > Tour iconic Brussels sights, such as the Atomium and the magnificent Grand-Place
- > Make your own Belgian chocolate at an artisan chocolaterie
- > Allocation of money for meals and transport expenses
- > Travel insurance

Entering couldn't be easier! Submit your #ThinkLanguages entry form and vlog by **Monday 1 December 2025**. For full terms and conditions and details on how to enter visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-competitions

Don't forget

Be sure to keep an eye on our social media and look out for our email updates with important information on the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team Vlog Competition.



#ThinkLanguages Champion Team Gaisce Challenge

We are now partnering with Gaisce! Students involved in their school's #ThinkLanguages Champion Team can count the skills they develop over 13 weeks towards their Bronze Level Award.

About Gaisce

The President's Award is Ireland's national youth award, encouraging young people aged 14–25 to challenge themselves and grow through personal development.

Gaisce Challenge Partner

If you're not a Champion Team member, there are still lots of ways you can use languages to contribute to a Gaisce Award in the areas of Personal Skill and Community Involvement. For more details on our partnership with Gaisce as a Challenge Partner, visit languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages-partners

Skills gained through organising #ThinkLanguages

- > **Leadership & teamwork:**
Motivating peers and working toward shared goals
- > **Planning & organisation:**
Coordinating tasks and managing event logistics
- > **Communication & outreach:**
Engaging with the school and local community
- > **Research & critical thinking:**
Exploring local languages and contributors
- > **Event & resource management:**
Ensuring smooth operations and setup
- > **Marketing & promotion:**
Creating content to raise awareness
- > **Problem-solving & adaptability:**
Handling challenges and adjusting plans
- > **Creativity & presentation:** Designing visuals and showcasing activities



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD



GAISCE
CHALLENGE
PARTNER







Research Manager

This role is all about investigating which languages are spoken in your school and local area and how they can enhance your #ThinkLanguages Week event.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > Conduct research to learn how many languages are spoken by students in your school, or how many students in your school are multilingual
- > Research any people or organisations in your local area, such as universities, businesses, or clubs, that offer services through modern foreign languages, and work with the Activities Manager to reach out and invite them to your event
- > Find ways to showcase the data you've collected at your event, e.g. through posters, or a presentation, with interesting facts about languages in your school
- > Find local shops or restaurants in your area that may want to contribute to the #ThinkLanguages event, e.g. Italian restaurant, Brazilian shop, etc.
- > The Scheduling Manager and Activities Manager may need your help in sourcing speakers and arranging times for them; be sure to share your research findings with the Champion Team!

Champion Team Captain

This role is about leadership, setting an example and supporting all members of the Champion Team to make your event as exciting and successful as it can be.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > Get the Champion Team together often to discuss the event and the tasks that need to be completed
- > Create a positive attitude and environment within the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team
- > Be a spokesperson for the event in your school, getting other students and teachers excited for the event
- > Work closely with, and be the main point of contact for the supporting teachers
- > Be approachable to all other team members
- > Keep track of event and competition deadlines

Festival Scheduling Manager

This role is about planning the day's events and coordinating the work of your team members to keep everything running smoothly.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > Decide on which day(s) during #ThinkLanguages Week you will host your event
- > Speak to the Activities and Production Managers to find out how long each activity and event will be, what equipment is needed and how long they expect it will take to set up, and what times workshops and speakers are available
- > Maybe you need to split up your year group – or will everyone do all the activities together? Account for this in your schedule planning
- > Keep an eye on the time during your #ThinkLanguages Week event and make sure everyone is sticking to their schedule

Marketing & Social Media Manager

This role is about promoting and documenting the event before, during and after #ThinkLanguages Week.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > Find out more about your school's social media and who is in charge of running it – you will have to enlist their help to get the word out about your event!
- > Research popular social media and marketing techniques and build a plan to promote your event
- > Decide who should know about the event – students/teachers/parents/people in your community – and think of the best ways to get your message out to them
- > Think about how else you can promote your event around the school and local community – posters or maybe an announcement over the school's intercom or in local newspaper is a place to start
- > Take a look at the resources available on languagesconnect.ie/thinklanguages

Activities Manager

This role is about deciding what type of activities or workshops you want to include in your event and working with the rest of the Champion Team to get things ready for them.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > Think about any students/parents/teachers who would be able to speak at or run a workshop for your event. Reach out to them and invite them along!
- > Once you've confirmed the details with your Scheduling Manager, share all the information with the invited speakers and workshop facilitators
- > Link in with the Production Manager to make sure that the team, school and rooms are prepped for the chosen activities
- > Be sure to communicate to the students attending the workshops what equipment they may need to bring
- > Explore and select an online workshop and other activities for your #ThinkLanguages Week event, such as seeing a foreign language film in your local cinema with the IFI or visiting a nearby university campus

Production Manager

This role is about organising all the equipment needed for the event, booking rooms and making sure all the spaces for the event are ready.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- > After talking to the Activities Manager, create a list of all the equipment needed for each activity in your #ThinkLanguages Week event
- > Think about and plan how many rooms/what spaces (e.g. sports hall or kitchen) are needed and speak to the relevant staff members to reserve them for the day(s) of your event
- > Are any screens, projectors, speakers or microphones needed for the event? Make sure you have permission to use them and know how to set them up
- > Brainstorm how your team will want to decorate the rooms and halls for your school's event and make a plan to have it all completed for #ThinkLanguages Week



#ThinkLanguages Week
Think Global Act Local

Marketing &
Social Media
Manager

#ThinkLanguages Week
Think Global Act Local

Festival
Scheduling
Manager

#ThinkLanguages Week
Think Global Act Local

Production
Manager

#ThinkLanguages Week
Think Global Act Local

Activities
Manager

Champion Team task cards

These task cards contain suggested roles and responsibilities for the six Champion Team members. You can cut them out and attach them to the lanyards in your pack so that each team member has a handy guide of what they should do!

#ThinkLanguages Week
Think Global Act Local

Champion Team
Captain

#ThinkLanguages Week
Think Global Act Local

Research
Manager



#ThinkLanguages Week

Think Global Act Local

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