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St Mark’s showcase creativity and commitment to languages

Tallaght school reach final of the Think Languages Champion Team of the Year

THE national final of the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team of the Year competition took place at The Clock Tower in the Department of Education and Youth, marking a vibrant celebration of language learning.

Three finalists' teams made up of transition year students from across Ireland, including a team from our St Mark’s Community School Tallaght, showcased their creativity and commitment to languages, with Ennistymon Community School, Clare crowned winners on the day.

St Mark’s Community School’s exceptional teamwork and innovative approach to promoting language learning during their #ThinkLanguages Week celebrations secured their place in the final, standing out among entries from schools across Ireland.

This year’s finalist teams also included students from Our Lady’s Bower, Athlone. Each school submitted a vlog-style entry reflecting the competition’s themes of enhancing life skills, creating global opportunities, and fostering broader personal connections.

The competition underscores the essential role that foreign language skills play in both personal growth and professional success.

This focus is at the heart of #ThinkLanguages Week, which serves as the foundation for the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team Competition.

Commenting on the significance of the #ThinkLanguages final, Minister for Education and Youth Hildegard Naughton noted: “#ThinkLanguages highlights the vital role languages play in creating inclusive, connected, and opportunity rich futures for young people. I commend all the students, teachers, and partners

involved in the initiative.

Language learning fosters understanding, empathy, and global citizenship—qualities clearly demonstrated by finalists.

“Congratulations to them all, especially the winning team from Ennistymon Community School, and may they continue to champion languages in their studies and future careers.”

#ThinkLanguages Week 2025, facilitated by Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) under the Languages Connect Strategy – Ireland’s Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education, took place last November.

The eighth annual #ThinkLanguages involved over 21,500 Transition Year students from more than 240 schools celebrating language learning through workshops, cultural events, music, dance, film and talks.

The annual event highlights how language learning enhances life skills, fosters inclusivity, boosts employability, and opens doors to global opportunities.

Karen Ruddock, Director of PPLI who led the event, commented, “The #ThinkLanguages Champion Team Final showcases huge creativity, teamwork, and passion for languages among students across Ireland. These young people are not only embracing multilingualism but also demonstrating skills that will open doors to global opportunities. At PPLI, we believe that it is important to showcase activities that celebrate language learning and empower students to experience a wider world.

The final also featured Meabh McMahon, Euronews journalist, broadcaster and multilingualist, as a guest speaker, inspiring students with insights into the global impact of multilingualism.



TOP MARKS: Students from St Mark's Community School were crowned runners-up of the #ThinkLanguages Champion Team Final 2025 following an exciting nationwide competition celebrating language learning, teamwork, and cultural creativity among senior cycle students