

EMAS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Autumn 1 newsletter from EMAS Coventry.

Primary Classroom Idea



Developing a multicultural library can be a relatively simple way to increase the visibility of minority and home languages while raising awareness of the value of multilingual literacy.

Just a few books are all it takes to get started. Choose books that represent the languages of the children in your class/school. Picture books can be a great way of representing different cultures and stories. They can be adapted to different topics and language levels, enjoyed alone or in the community, and 'read' by anyone since children and adults alike can use illustrations to creatively imagine their own stories – in any language(s).

Ref: NALDIC EAL Blog

The Foyle Foundation

It's not too late to apply for The Foyle Foundation School Library Scheme. Applications can be submitted up until 30th September 2024.

[School Library Scheme Guidelines – The Foyle Foundation](#)

European Day of Languages

Every year, on the 26th September, millions of people take part in activities to promote linguistic diversity and the ability to speak other languages.

The general aim of EDL is to draw attention to Europe's rich linguistic and cultural diversity, which needs to be encouraged and maintained. Furthermore, to also extend the range of languages that people learn throughout their lives in order to develop their plurilingual skills and reinforce intercultural understanding.

EDL is an opportunity to celebrate all of Europe's languages, including those that are less widely spoken.

Visit [European Day of Languages > Home \(ecml.at\)](#) for ideas and resources on how you can celebrate the day.

Secondary Classroom Idea

EMPOWERING EAL LEARNERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A Practical Resource to Support
the Language Development of
Multilingual Learners

Joanna Kolota



A **Speechmark** Book

ROUTLEDGE

Joanna Kolota has just released a collection of great writing frames and a book for secondary practice to support multilingual learners. [Empowering EAL Learners in Secondary Schools: A Practical Resource to \(routledge.com\)](https://www.routledge.com/empowering-eal-learners-in-secondary-schools)

This resource is designed to support multilingual learners and all students in the classroom by providing a comprehensive collection of sentence starters and writing frames tailored for various disciplines. It serves as a valuable tool to assist students in structuring their writing, expressing their ideas clearly, and engaging with academic content across subjects.

While this resource can be used independently by students, it is most effective when integrated into explicit teaching and modelling by the teacher. By incorporating these sentence starters and writing frames into classroom instruction, teachers can provide concrete examples, guide students through the writing process, and offer the necessary scaffolding to help all learners succeed.

[Supporting Multilingual Learners Structured Writing Support.pdf](#)

EAL Co-ordinators Meeting


The next PRIMARY network meeting is on Tuesday 19th November and SECONDARY is on Thursday 21st November in person (venue TBC) 4:00 – 5:30. If you have ideas for topics you would like to be covered then please contact us.

DATA LOCKER

We are in the process of converting to use Data Locker to share reports securely with schools. You will receive an email from our admin team, asking for an up-to-date name and email address for your school EAL Co-ordinator and school SLT member responsible for EAL.

Schools of Sanctuary



EMAS are very excited to be working with the City of Sanctuary organisation as local leads to help support Coventry schools to become accredited Schools of Sanctuary. This network supports the thousands of children and young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, raises awareness of the experiences of people seeking safety, and plays a key role in building a culture of kindness and compassion. 

Please get in touch or come along to our introductory session on 1st October, If your school is interested in joining the growing network of more than 800 primary and secondary schools,

nurseries and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and belonging for those forced to flee.

Why not kickstart the new school term by exploring migration histories with your new class. While helping you learn useful information about your pupils, it also acts as a meaningful foundation for the rest of your School of Sanctuary learning activities throughout the year.

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/2024/08/29/welcome-back-to-school-activity-our-school-migration-stories>



Upcoming CPD this half-term

- Leading a Whole School Strategy for EAL - 12th September 3:30 – 5:00
- Including Newly Arrived Pupils: Planning and support in the classroom - 19th September 3:30 – 5:00
- Developing an Induction programme for newly arrived learners using English as an additional language
Primary – 24th September 3:30 – 5:00 Secondary – 26th September 3:30 - 5:00
- Schools of Sanctuary - 1st October 3:30 – 5:00
- EAL Co-ordinators: Best Practice - 10th October 3:30 – 5:00
- Assessment, tracking progress and target setting of EAL learners
Primary - 22nd October 3:30 – 5:00 Secondary - 23rd October 3:30 – 5:00

Email admin.emas@coventry.gov.uk or emasteachers@coventry.gov.uk to reserve your place.

Please note that the cost of all central CPD sessions is £43 per delegate. For those schools who have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with EMAS, this cost can be deducted from your SLA. Please also note that some of the CPD sessions are free of charge for Coventry's Maintained Schools.

Celebrating Multilingualism

Congratulations to all those late arrivals who achieved some top GCSE grades this year in their home languages including, Arabic, Chinese, Gujarati, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Turkish. Many schools have entered their newly arrived learners for their home language GCSE giving them the possibility of achieving a good GCSE qualification.

Guidance on exam concessions at secondary level

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has updated their guidance around application for a bilingual dictionary with 25% extra time [Ch 5.18.6](#) :

the candidate entered the United Kingdom within three years of the examination(s), is new to learning in English and does not have sufficient prior and current knowledge of academic English. The candidate may have been assessed on arrival as being new to English (Band A on the DfE scales) or in the early acquisition stages of language development (Band B on the DfE scales).

Computer reader/reader

A candidate for whom English is an additional language may use a computer reader/reader. The computer reader/reader can help to support their reading in English. Previously, a candidate with EAL was not permitted this arrangement unless reading difficulties were present in their first language. However, this is no longer the case and the decision to provide reading support can be based on their difficulties with reading English and their normal way of working in the centre.

2024-25 Update to Assessing the need for Access Arrangements in Examinations, a practical guide. 7th ed.