# ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES



Chair: Dame Nia Griffith MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB); Vice-Chairs: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Baroness Garden of Frognal (LD); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).

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Language Trends 2023: Headline findings from the annual survey of primary and secondary schools on language provision and attainment.

Speaker:

Vicky Gough, British Council.

University Council for Modern Languages (UCFL): report on latest developments. Speakers:

Prof Emma Cayley, University of Leeds Dr Begoña Rodríguez de Céspedes, Portsmouth University.

'Linguistics in MFL' project manifesto launch: the case for linguistics in the MFL dassroom. Speakers:

Prof Michelle Sheehan, Newcastle University Sascha Stollhans, University of Leeds

Chatterbox: case study of a tech start-up with a social mission Speakers:

Mursal Hedayat, Chatterbox Hu Naqvi, Chatterbox

13 November 2023:

Hurdles facing school trips and exchanges abroad: finding solutions. Speakers:

Gill Harvey, School Travel Forum

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During 2023, Baroness Coussins tabled 19 Written Questions covering Afghan interpreters, languages in education, translation/interpreting in justice and health, and new salary threshold rules for language assistants and university lecteurs.

During 2023, Tonia Antoniazzi MP tabled two Written Questions on international educational visits.

#### Other:

In November, Baroness Coussins contributed comments to programme on failings in the provision of public service interpreters in the courts, hospitals, social services and other public services. (See Appendix).

In December, the House of Lords Education for 11 16 Year Olds Committee published its report Requires improvement: urgent change for 11 16 education which called for better provision of languages education in secondary. Three members of the APPG on Modern Languages are on this Committee (Lord Aberdare, Baroness Blower and Baroness Garden).

Appendix: APPG Modern Languages in the media, December 2023

The Times:

Re: Times Education Commission

Rachel Sylvester: Sump in modern languages threatens economy and national security - The decline in pupils studying a foreign language is bad for them and bad for Britain <a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/233f2824-bbdf-450f-9073-77a3b85eabf7?shareToken=d2667f7a596907ca02c488084719ab38">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/233f2824-bbdf-450f-9073-77a3b85eabf7?shareToken=d2667f7a596907ca02c488084719ab38</a>

The Times Leading Article: The Times view on GCSE languages: Power of Babel - A decline in language learning weakens Britain diplomatically and commercially <a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/128c18b7-028e-438f-b7d7-0232d1674b97?shareToken=e0b0453f14aaca6a9b5fd757693687c6">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/128c18b7-028e-438f-b7d7-0232d1674b97?shareToken=e0b0453f14aaca6a9b5fd757693687c6</a>

Teach languages with grades like music, says ex-minister - Charles Clarke says he regrets the decline in pupils taking modern languages, but claims his decision in the early 2000s is not the cause

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/teach-languages-with-grades-like-music-says-ex-minister-m7wfn9ch7

Letters to the Times in response to the above:

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/666a510d-64ed-4dfb-a504-152146f99c8d?shareToken=47f3ace31e142d522b64811d329dd3c1

Lord Darroch of Dew, National Security Adviser 2012-15:

"Do the same for language learning [as for maths] by restoring the requirement that every pupil takes a modern language to [18]."

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Professor Catriona Seth, Marshal Foch professor of French literature, Oxford University; Lord Ricketts, former head, Diplomatic Service:

"The time when we could rely on everyone else speaking English is long gone. We urgently need a long-term national strategy to train and retain the inspirational teachers who can make learning languages once more an exciting feature of the GCSE curriculum."

Professor Sir David Omand, Former director of GCHQ; author of How to Survive a Crisis:

"This is a classic example of a slow-burn crisis that needs remedial action, starting now and kept up over the next decade, which is how long it will take \$\mathbb{3}\text{e}\text{P}\text{TOTALL}\text