

(Actions are at the foot of the document!)

In addition to the launch event in early September, and the regular Socials on Zoom ALL colleagues proposed this academic year to have – for this audience - a focus on **Speaking** in the classroom and on '**Reflection on principles**'.

The Socials have explored aspects of **Speaking in the Target Language**, led by inputs from ECTs or trainees, with support from experienced language teachers. This was in order to place the question of exposure to / use of the language regularly in their thinking as a major issue for the year:

We said: We would like to encourage the use of target language in the classroom, both by trainees / ECTs and by their students. To this end, course leaders will be invited to reward trainees for optimal use of TL (e.g. 70% teacher use) and to observe innovative strategies leading to student use of TL.

We will offer to any trainees / ECTs who request it, at the end of the year (June), a certificate from ALL to record their progress in thinking about this issue.

We ask them to write a short (1 page) record of progress they feel they have made (readings, discussions, classroom practice, routines embedded, events, student use of language ..) which they show to their tutor / mentor (optionally for discussion). We would then ask the tutor / mentor to send an email to steven.fawkes@gmail.com (on behalf of the planning group) requesting a certificate for the trainee /ECT (with their email address) to print or store in their professional file.

We hope this might also be useful to departments hosting an ECT or trainee, who might get involved in in-school discussions on the issue.

Reflection

One of the roles of ALL is to support members in developing professional skills beyond the classroom, and we try to offer opportunities to members to speak in public to their peers (at online events or in person) and / or to write for their peers (in pieces on the website or in the magazine.)

We already invite ECTs and trainees to take a lead in, or contribute to, the Social Zoom events online. Now we also wish to pilot a writing competition (for the same audience) with a deadline also at the end of the academic year.

In the launch event online, Veronica, our speaker, asked those present to reflect briefly and put into the Chat brief thoughts on 'what they were looking

forward to at the start of the year'. We think it is important that teachers bear in mind their hopes and expectations in the face of the everyday pressures and demands in school; that they establish their personal set of principles (alongside the official ones) for what sort of teacher they want to be etc. So we asked them to collect brief thoughts, regularly over the year into a draft and, at the end of the year, to write a short (one side) paper outlining how their thinking has been shaped over the year – where they started from and where they have reached, and what things are still paramount in their mind as reasons they wish to be a languages teacher. This is a reflective, rather than an academic, piece of writing, allowing some teacher agency to participants in relation to their personal thinking.

By submitting these pieces, writers would give permission for them to be edited and used on the ALL website (or potentially in print) for the interest and information of others; they would retain copyright for use in their own professional work.

A prize or prizes (tbc) will be awarded with certificates to the most interesting pieces.

Action by trainees / ECTs:

The time has now come for these two challenges to be rewarded.

Target Language Challenge – if you have been pursuing a target in this area, please

1. now write / complete your one page document recording what you have done and achieved
2. show it to your mentor or tutor
3. ask them to send an email to steven.fawkes@gmail.com (on behalf of the planning group) requesting an electronic certificate for you (with your email address) to print or store in your professional file. (You can choose if you wish to send your document as an attachment.)

Writing challenge – if you have been collating your paragraphs over the year, please tidy them up and send a version you are happy with to steven.fawkes@gmail.com (on behalf of the planning group) with the title 'ALL Social Zoom Writing entry' and stating if you have been a trainee / student teacher or an ECT this year.

The most interesting pieces of writing will be published on these pages:

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/student/>

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/student/ect-years/>

A prize and certificates will be awarded to the most interesting pieces.