



ALL Briefing No. 39

Date: September 2024

Theme: Recent articles

Background:

In the Summer holidays ALL members take a well-deserved break from their professional activities, but interesting articles on related issues continue to be published. This compilation is of 17 articles that ALL members have spotted in Summer 2024 and thought worthy to share with others. They come from a variety of sources online, are in no particular order and are on a mixture of themes (in bold).

Welsh language helping migrants

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-welsh-language-is-being-promoted-to-help-migrants-feel-at-home-211686>

Irish Language A-levels

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/increase-in-entries-for-irish-language-at-a-level-in-northern-ireland-EJFJISYXTRAX3LQKIKFFQXWSM4/>

Times of India : Easy ways to teach your kid a foreign language

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/parenting/web-stories/easy-ways-to-teach-your-kid-a-foreign-language/photostory/112709402.cms>

Times of India : Why speaking in your mother tongue at home is crucial

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/parenting/web-stories/why-speaking-in-your-mother-tongue-at-home-is-crucial/photostory/112893673.cms>

Learning a language – smashing through the ‘intermediate plateau’

https://theconversation.com/learning-a-language-four-ways-to-smash-through-the-dreaded-intermediate-plateau-236648?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2015%202024%20-%203066831276&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2015%202024%20-%203066831276+CID_5a27f26887b21e212512d9a4786d718c&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=four%20tried-and-tested%20strategies

The case for Knowledge about Language

Hudson, Richard. 2024. Language at school: literature or linguistics? *Journal of the British Academy* 12. a24. <https://doi.org/10.5871/jba/012.a24>.

The author claims that English and MFL are not only both in crisis, but they're both in the same crisis, which may be due to a lack of Knowledge About Language; and that this crisis dates in both cases from about 1970.

<https://journal.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/articles/12/3/a25>,

10 Reasons Why Learning a Second Language at an Early Age Benefits Students | Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/education/web-stories/10-reasons-why-learning-a-second-language-at-an-early-age-benefits-students/photostory/112569301.cms>

U.S. Department of Education: Raise the Bar: Lead the World

... the U.S. Department of Education's call to action to transform education and unite around what truly works—based on decades of experience and research—to advance educational equity and excellence. Raising the bar means recognizing that our nation already has what it takes to continue leading the world—if we deliver a comprehensive, rigorous education for every student; boldly improve conditions for learning; ensure every student has a pathway to multilingualism and to college and careers; and increase college affordability and completion so more Americans can reach their dreams.

<https://www.ed.gov/RaiseTheBar>

<https://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/multilingualism-pathways>

British Academy : Subject choice trends in post-16 education in England

Findings include:

- Students are increasingly narrowing the range of subjects they are taking at AS/A-level ...
- Humanities and Arts subjects take-up has declined considerably over the last two decades ...
- Most Humanities subjects have experienced a decline in availability between 2007/08 and 2021/22. Subjects such as French, German and Religious Studies are offered by significantly fewer providers than they were in 2007/08...
- The analysis also finds a young person's background, environment and gender play key roles in influencing their subject choices.

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/publications/subject-choice-trends-post-16-education-england/>

German

https://www.theguardian.com/education/article/2024/aug/17/it-enriches-your-mind-in-every-way-the-fight-to-keep-the-uk-learning-german?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

Bi-/multilingualism

<https://theconversation.com/bilingualism-under-threat-structured-literacy-will-make-it-harder-for-children-to-hold-on-to-their-mother-tongue-236140>

<https://www.europelanguagejobs.com/blog/benefits-of-multilingualism>

Schoolsweek: How we're turning the language-curious into language lovers

https://schoolsweek.co.uk/how-to-turn-interest-in-languages-into-a-lifelong-passion/?mc_cid=d7b853b1a4&mc_eid=ba62e510bc

GCSE Report from British Academy

https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/news/gcse-results-day-2024-shape-subjects/?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_id=announcement

GCSE answers from OFQUAL

https://schoolsweek.co.uk/gcse-results-2024-ofquals-ian-bauckham-answers-our-questions/?mc_cid=5489c1a8ab&mc_eid=ba62e510bc

2024 Language GCSE results detailed analysis.

ALL Trustee Helen Myers and ALL Fellow David Blow have expanded their blog post on 'What to look out for in GCSE MFL grading on Thursday 22nd August 2024.'

<https://helenmyers.blogspot.com/2024/08/what-to-look-out-for-in-gcse-ml-grading.html>

In the newest edition, David brings together the Ofqual announcement about aligning grading standards in GCSE French and German with Spanish
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inter-subject-comparability-in-gcse-modern-foreign-languages>
the FFT Datalab graphs on provisional entries for GCSE languages
<https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2024/08/five-things-to-look-out-for-on-gcse-results-day/>
and a section on 'Cohort prior attainment profile in each subject', where he reminds us that 'it is misleading to look at raw % achieving grades in different GCSE subjects, because the ability profile taking each subject will differ'. He illustrates this by sharing graphs generated by the DfE Transition Matrices published in October 2023.

Further results analysis will be shared via ALLNet, when the DfE releases the Transition Matrices for 2024.

This Briefing is largely for updating of members.

This Briefing has been prepared by volunteers from the ALL Council and is for the benefit of ALL members.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily constitute the policy of the Association for Language Learning.

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