

# VOICE

10 EDITION 2024

## NEWSLETTER



# VOICE NEWSLETTER

10 EDITION 2024



Welcome to the latest edition of our Voice newsletter. This edition is a Languages takeover, as the Spanish department share what they have been up to over the last year. At TAL we are proud to be a multilingual school and recognise the power and skill in speaking two or more languages. Every Friday at TAL is dedicated to languages as we award our coveted Linguist of the Week prize and recite our STEPS (greetings) in Spanish. This term has seen our students take part in their first speaking assessments and their teachers were incredibly impressed with the effort and accents (!) shown. We hope that you enjoy finding out more about your child's experiences in their Spanish lessons and beyond, you may just spot a few familiar faces.



# Languages Department at TAL

Senora Timpson



1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are learning?

I can speak French and Spanish.

2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

People respond differently when you make the effort to speak to them in their native language. I think it shows an appreciation of and willingness to understand different cultures and traditions. Being able to speak another language is an important life skill. It helps you to build your confidence when communicating with others in any language and it improves your listening skills. It also makes you more employable! For me, learning a new language is like cracking a code and being part of another community that enriches your life.

3. What inspired you to learn languages?

I have always enjoyed the sounds of other languages and identifying patterns within the language and comparing these to English. My first French teacher, Monsieur Poitiers, was a definite inspiration for me as he not only enabled me to improve my French language skills, but also gave me the desire to visit France and other countries to experience different cultures and meet new people.

4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience.

I lived in France for a year and taught English to primary school aged children. It was an incredible experience not just from a linguistic point of view but also in terms of building my confidence and independence. I had to set up my own bank account, find somewhere to live and navigate my way to the eight different schools in which I worked! I returned to the UK a changed person with heaps more confidence, improved language and cooking skills and many fantastic friends for life.

5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

I would like to learn British Sign Language as I think it is such an important skill to have.

6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

Expose yourself to the language that you are learning as much as you can; listen to music, watch films and read articles in the target language. Regularly learning vocabulary is essential; little and often is the key!

7. What did you study at university and where?

I studied French, Spanish and English at The University of Leeds.

8. Why did you want to become a languages teacher?

I think it is so important, enjoyable and rewarding to be able to speak other languages and I wanted to enable others to have the same experiences too!

9. What do you love about being a languages teacher and teaching languages at TAL?

TAL students are fantastic language learners as they are inquisitive, have an excellent knowledge of phonics and can express themselves with clarity when speaking Spanish. I feel privileged to be able to teach such a variety of multi-lingual students who bring well developed and effective language learning strategies to the classroom.



## 1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are learning?

I am a native speaker of Spanish and Basque (a language spoken in the Basque Region in the north of Spain). I can also speak a little bit of French.

## 2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

Speaking more than one language allows people to deepen their understanding of different cultures around the world. Being able to speak or understand several languages enables you to access opportunities in other countries. It also means that you can have more unique and culturally relevant experiences, by talking to locals and better understanding their ways of living.

## 3. What inspired you to learn languages?

When I was sixteen, I was offered the opportunity to move to England for a year. The idea of moving to a foreign country on my own seemed somewhat terrifying to me at the time, but it was an experience that changed my life. Today, I continue to believe that it was one of the best things that happened to me at that age. I did not only return home to Spain being able to fluently communicate in another language, but I also gained a huge understanding of British culture and way of living. This experience motivated me to continue working on my English (I started reading in English and going to after-school English lessons). I loved the power and autonomy I obtained from being able to communicate in another language and I wanted to pursue this further.

## 4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience.

I moved to the UK from Spain when I was eighteen years old, to go to university. Ever since, I have lived in several cities across the country, and I believe that I have learnt something from every place I have lived in. I learnt how to find my way around these towns and cities and how to speak to people whose accents differed from one another. I learnt that I was not the only person who occasionally struggled with their English and that they were many things I did not know about the cultures and countries these people were from. I learnt to appreciate my home more deeply and to feel incredibly lucky to have a home in Spain that was so culturally different to where I lived in at the time. Finally, I learnt about the importance of occasionally pursuing a new start that freshens up your routine and life experiences, but also about the rewards that come with moving somewhere else for the career or job you want.

## 5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

I started learning French a couple of years ago and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Because I have not had the chance to use it or teach it, it has become a little bit rusty. This year, I would like to learn more French, but I have also always loved the idea of speaking Italian. Because Italian is very similar Spanish, I have always made the effort to try to understand it when others spoke it, but I am excited about the prospect of being able to speak it in the future.

## 6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

Ideally, try to pick a language that you are interested in. Otherwise, find out about the culture of the place where the language you are learning is spoken, it will get you interested and motivated.

When you start learning vocabulary and grammar, a good habit to embed in your learning is to make vocabulary links with the language(s) that you already know. Making links will help build your schema and help the new knowledge to stick in your long term memory. It is also very important to remain as consistent as you can with learning languages; the more you practice, the better you will get! Finally, the most important thing about learning a new language is mustering up the courage to speak it; be confident, if you don't use it, you lose it!

## 7. What did you study at university and where?

Following my passion for English literature and language, I went to Teesside University (in Middlesbrough) to study English with Creative Writing.

## 8. Why did you want to become a languages teacher?

I wanted to inspire young people to have the opportunity to take on some of the extremely positive experiences I have had through learning languages. Additionally, being from Spain myself I wanted to share the awareness of a culture that I have been brought up in and that I have learnt to become passionate about.

## 9. What do you love about being a languages teacher and teaching languages at TAL?

TAL is an outstanding school for language learning, thanks to the great importance placed on mastering different languages. This is fantastic for both teachers and students. I love teaching Spanish at TAL and seeing you develop as fantastic linguists! At TAL, both staff and students hold languages in high esteem, and this commitment is vividly seen in the seamless integration of "Spanish Fridays" into the school culture. It's truly delightful to walk through the school on those days and witness everyone enthusiastically exchanging greetings in Spanish. I feel so proud and privileged to work as a language teacher at TAL!



1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are learning?

I can speak French and Spanish.

2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

As a languages teacher, I believe it's crucial to speak or understand other languages because it opens doors to diverse cultures, fosters global friendships, and enhances cognitive abilities. Learning languages promotes empathy, breaks down barriers, and prepares students for a interconnected world. It's like gaining a superpower – the ability to communicate and connect with people from various backgrounds.

3. What inspired you to learn languages?

I have always been curious about different languages and cultures, and for as long as I can remember, I have always had an interest in learning a new language. I love the logical approach to learning grammar and enjoy making links between the languages I know. Languages are like magic keys unlocking doors to diverse cultures and friendships. I wanted to connect with people globally, and learning languages has afforded me many fantastic opportunities both in the UK and abroad.

4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience.

Throughout my twenties I lived and worked in France for a total of four years. During this time, I gained a wealth of work experience (I taught English to French school children) and developed my language skills. I also learnt to be truly independent, as I moved to a different country away from all of my family and friends! I learnt lots about different cultures and made some lifelong friends. During the time that I was in France, I visited Spain regularly which also allowed me to develop my knowledge of the Spanish language and experience lots of elements of Spanish culture.

5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

I recently travelled to Morocco and I was fascinated by the languages spoken there. As a result, I would really love to learn some Arabic.

6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

To excel at language learning, practice regularly through activities that you find enjoyable. Try to immerse yourself in the language by watching foreign films, reading books, listening to music or using language-learning apps and games for interactive learning. It is important to embrace mistakes as part of the learning process, and don't be afraid to speak – confidence grows with each attempt. Remember, patience and curiosity are your best allies on this exciting linguistic journey!

7. What did you study at university and where?

I studied French at The University of Leeds.

8. Why did you want to become a languages teacher?

Becoming a languages teacher allows me to share the joy of communication and understanding diverse cultures. I wanted to inspire young minds to appreciate the beauty of languages, fostering curiosity and connections. It's fulfilling to witness students' linguistic journeys and contribute to their growth as global citizens.

9. What do you love about being a languages teacher and teaching languages at TAL?

Being a languages teacher at TAL is a joy because I get to share the wonders of communication and cultural understanding. Witnessing students grasp new languages and cultures is incredibly rewarding. I love the beautiful Spanish conversations our fantastic TAL linguists have and all the beautiful work that is produced in lessons. Teaching allows me to ignite curiosity, celebrate diversity, and inspire a lifelong love for languages. It's a privilege to be part of students' language learning journey at TAL and witness their growth, curiosity, and enthusiasm firsthand.

# Where languages can take you

Studying languages opens doors to amazing possibilities. Connect with people worldwide, travel confidently, and unlock exciting career paths. Boost brainpower, stand out in school, and be a global citizen. Learning languages isn't just about words; it's about discovering diverse cultures, making lifelong friends, and having fun along the way!



**freedom tolerance friends**  
**empathy enjoyment**  
**influence awareness**  
**empowerment**  
**WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE**  
**insight adaptability**  
**understanding advantages**  
**confidence memories**

**perspective**  
**pleasure**  
**scope**  
**pride**  
**employability**  
**opportunities**

## 9 Benefits of Learning a Second Language

### 1 - Advancement in your career

Employers would prefer the professionals who are able to communicate fluently in the overseas market.

### 2 - Gives you an upperhand in life

Whatever your future aspiration may be - with language skills added to the mix, you're ahead of the crowd!

### 3 - Increased Knowledge

You may find yourself learning more about the history and origin of the language.

### 4 - Improve cognitive skills

This added skill set also offers benefits like improved memory, critical thinking and problem solving skills.

### 5 - More opportunities and options to explore

Learning a second language opens additional doors to opportunities for studying or working abroad.

### 6 - Boosts your confidence

Conversing with people in their native language gives you a sense of accomplishment.

### 7 - Gain new perspectives and insights

Helps learners to have a greater appreciation for the new language they are learning.

### 8 - Strengthen connections with other cultures

Ability to easily navigate outside the tourist bubble to connect and interact with the people in the country.

### 9 - Enhance memory skills

Learning a second language can develop new areas of your mind and strengthen your brain's natural ability to focus.

## Government Public Service

Diplomacy  
Foreign Service  
Immigration / Naturalization  
Intelligence  
Law Enforcement

## Arts, Media Entertainment

Advertising  
Journalism  
Broadcasting  
Publishing / Editing  
Public Relations

## Industry & Commerce

Sales / Marketing  
Banking / Finance  
Customer Services  
Imports / Exports  
Consulting

## Interpretation & Translation

Simultaneous Interpretation  
Consecutive Interpretation  
Court Interpretation  
Medical Interpretation  
Literary Translation

## Travel & Tourism

Airline Services  
Travel Services  
Travel Guidance  
Booking / Reservations  
Management

## Service & Education

Teaching  
Linguistics  
Library Science  
Social Work  
Health Services

[Read more ...](#)

# What is the The Young Interpreter Scheme®?

The Young Interpreter Scheme® acknowledges the significant potential within school communities, encouraging students of all ages to use their skills and knowledge to assist new students or those learning English; fostering a sense of safety, belonging, and value from the beginning. Specially trained Young Interpreters, chosen based on various personal qualities, contribute to this scheme, which is open to both bilingual and monolingual learners. It plays a crucial role in cultivating empathy among our students, helping them understand the challenges faced by new pupils or students learning English.



**ALA**

Hi, I'm in Year 9, and I speak English and Kurdish. I speak English because I was born in Britain, and I speak Kurdish because my family is from Iraqi Kurdistan. Being fluent in Kurdish is helpful when visiting countries around Iraq because some people may speak Kurdish too. However, sometimes I might forget words in both English and Kurdish because I get confused between the languages. At home, I speak Kurdish with my parents, but English with my brothers; I don't know why, but we've been doing it since we were little. My mum and her side of the family can speak and understand Arabic because their neighbour speaks it.

I enjoy going to TAL because of the diversity here. I get to learn and talk about my culture and other cultures with my mates. I think it's important to learn and develop your first language so you can know your heritage. Being clueless about your culture is not a good thing; what if someone asked, "What is your favorite traditional dish?" It's also important to know other languages for future jobs, jobs like interpretation, and maybe working in the government too. Khwa hafyz!

**ELINA**

Hi, I'm a student in Year Eight, and I speak two languages fluently - Kurdish and English. I know Kurdish because I am from Kurdistan (Iraq), and my parents taught me when I was little. Despite this, I do admit that I'm more fluent in English because I was born in the UK and have lived here all my life, so I usually speak in English rather than Kurdish during school, in my head, or when talking to someone who isn't family.

Personally, I believe that there are many noticeable advantages to being multilingual, such as being able to communicate with your friends in secret or, if you want to think more far ahead to the future, being able to get a certain job because of the language you're skilled at. Also, going on holiday to a foreign country must be annoying and frustrating if you can't understand someone, no matter how hard you try, and they just can't understand you. Although you could just use Google Translate, sometimes it isn't very accurate, so knowing two or more languages is helpful and useful in many ways.

However, being multilingual has some annoying disadvantages too. For example, when your brain just completely falls asleep for a moment while talking to someone, and you can only remember the word in another language.

Lastly, I think to encourage children to learn languages, you should make it more enjoyable and fun to learn. For example, at school, we sometimes play a game at the end of Spanish lessons, which makes all the hard work worth it. Besides, no one would be motivated to learn something if they found it boring. I also think that if we had more options for languages, that would have a positive impact too.

What languages do you speak or want to learn?



## JEREMIEL

Hi! Ciao!! Hola! Ni hao! Dzień dobry! Asalaam alaykum! Shalom! Salut! My name is Jeremiel. I am a Year 9 student here at TAL, and one thing about languages is that they are completely different. My name is pronounced in so many ways! In French, it's [Jay-ruh-my-elle]; in English, it is [Juh-ruh-my-ul]; and in Spanish, it is [Heh-ray-my-elle]!

I speak French and consider myself just on the verge of competence. Now you're probably licking your lips and thinking of baguettes and croissants (which I genuinely love!), but to me, French is an opportunity to connect with the Francophone (French-speaking) world as well as my family. I am also learning Spanish in school and me gusta mucho! The elders in my family communicate with tribal languages and dialects, which I am hoping to soon learn.

Although I speak French, I was born in England; however, French was spoken at home while English was spoken at school. I could then learn two languages simultaneously. My most predominant language is English. I believe polyglots are the luckiest people in the world! Truly: the skills to communicate and understand a language help you to connect with different linguistic worlds. A disadvantage, I would say, about being multilingual is mixing vocabulary from different languages. I have recently been attending an INVOLVE called The Young Interpreters, and I learned languages are all mixed in a person's mind rather than in different compartments.

At TAL, we are a multilingual school with more than 50 languages. I am proud to be a part of the diversity of this school because I feel like every student's personality and identity contributes to the community.

## NAYMI

My name is Naymi. I am 12 years old and in Year 8. I speak Portuguese, English, and Spanish. Portuguese is my first language; I learned it from my mum because she doesn't speak English at home. English is my second language; I learned it in school, and I am also learning Spanish at school. I use Portuguese with my mum and when I am communicating with my family. There are some family members with whom I can't communicate because they don't speak English or Portuguese. Some of my relatives speak French and local dialects.

Since I live in a country where English is spoken, I use it in most situations, like when I help my mum with writing. The advantages of being multilingual are that I can understand what my family around me is saying, I can also understand my grandma's novellas and TV shows, and when I travel to countries that speak Portuguese, I can go to places by myself and communicate with strangers if necessary. A disadvantage is that some words in English I only know in Portuguese and not in English.

I really like attending a multicultural school because I get to learn how people from different countries do certain things and interpret life. The primary school that I went to was also multicultural, so it's not so different from here. I think speaking Portuguese will help me a lot in life. It will help me talk with people who speak the same languages as me. It will also help me with jobs and communicating with colleagues and clients. I think schools should have a variety of languages for students to learn.



## LAAIBAH

Hi, I'm Laaibah. I'm in Year 9, and I speak English and Mirpuri. I learned English from school, and I speak Mirpuri because my family is from Pakistan. There are lots of advantages to learning a different language, as someone may not know any other languages but your own. I speak Mirpuri at home mostly. At school, I speak English to my teachers and friends, and at home, I speak Mirpuri with my family.

If you speak another language, there are benefits, like translating for someone else who may not understand what someone is saying, but they might understand your language. Attending a multicultural and multilingual school is good because you get to find out about different cultures.

# What is the The Young Interpreter Scheme®?

## MELODE

Hi, my name is Melode. I am in Year 9, and I'm 14 years old. I speak fluent Tigrinya and understand Amharic to some extent. Tigrinya is my mother tongue and is actively spoken around me, as is Amharic, which is very similar to Tigrinya. These languages are spoken in Ethiopia and Eritrea, where my family is originally from. I use these two languages to communicate with my family and relatives. I use my native tongue in situations where I'm speaking to people who don't speak English very well, especially around older Eritrean individuals.



## SCARLETT

Hi, I'm 12 years old and a Year 8 student. I speak English and a little bit of Spanish; I have been learning Spanish since I was in Year 5. All of my family speaks English, and some of my friends speak different languages such as Urdu, Arabic, French, and more. Even though I have been learning Spanish for 4 years, I communicate with my family using English.

It would probably be an advantage if you speak multiple languages because if your friends speak a different language, it would be easier if you speak that language too, just because it would be easier to communicate with them. For me, a disadvantage if you did speak more than one language is that if you say a sentence and then forget how to say a certain word, I personally would get really annoyed.

The only time I would really need Spanish is either in a Spanish lesson or if I went to Spain. I feel more comfortable speaking English because I've spoken it all my life.

Attending a multicultural school feels quite normal since my primary school had lots of people who spoke different languages than me.

During the Young Interpreters course, I have learned that I do actually speak more than English, and it could be useful if you're multilingual.

Learning other languages in school would be helpful because if there is a new student and they speak a different language, then it would be useful if someone who spoke the same language as them could communicate and tell them what's going on.

**Diversity is a key part of Trinity Academy Leeds every student has a different story and different life. I personally think it is important to speak or understand other languages, as they are another form of understanding others, no matter their culture, background or language.**

**– Yahya 9E**

# Student Voice

## What languages (other than English) do you speak or are you learning?

"At home, I normally speak Urdu and Punjabi as I am from Pakistan." (Alisha, 9E)

"I am learning to speak Spanish, German and Japanese. Outside of school, I have mainly been learning German." (Tyler, 9A)

"I speak Urdu and I am learning Arabic, Spanish and Japanese." (Hamza 8I)

"The languages that I am learning are Spanish, French and Swiss." (Jacky, 8M)

"I am learning standard Arabic; I can understand more than I can speak, but I am determined to learn more. I am also learning Zaghawa, a dialect of Arabic from my native country. My parents speak Zaghawa, I am working hard to learn more so I can communicate fluently with them in their native language." (Yahya, 9E)

"I can speak Urdu, Punjabi and I am learning Spanish." (Aileena, 7M)

"I speak Shona, because I am originally from Zimbabwe. I am also learning Spanish at the moment, not only at school, but also outside of school by using Duolingo." (Andre, 9L)

"I am learning Xhosa. This is a language that both my parents speak fluently." (Zozi, 7T)

## What do you like most about learning languages?

"The thing I like most about learning languages is expanding my vocabulary by reading the Spanish books or my dictionary and English books because there are many other words that I may not understand yet." – Sharifah 8E

"What I like most about learning languages is the diversity in them but also how similar some are. My mom was telling me about how Spanish also some similar words in languages I already know." – Zozi 7T

"I really like spotting patterns and finding similarities between different languages." – Abenezer 7I

"The thing I like most about learning languages is that I can learn about how to say variety of different words and talk to my friends who also speak another language." – Hamza 8I

"The thing I like most about learning languages is that I can be creative and inquisitive about other languages and cultures." – Aleena 9L

"What I like the most about learning languages is learning how to interact with people from different cultures and understanding the history behind it." – Andre 9L

"The thing I like most about learning other languages is that they have a unique way of speaking and they are fantastic!" – Jacky 8M

# Student Voice

## Why do you think it is important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

"If you understand different languages you can speak to many different people from around the world." – Hamza 8I

"It is important to speak or to understand other languages because it allows us to acknowledge our worldviews and heritage." – Aileena 7M

"I think it is important because you have the chance to experience the culture and how other people communicate." – Alisha 9E

"I think this is important because if someone were to travel the world, you would need to know what people are saying. Also if something bad were to happen whilst you were travelling, then you wouldn't be aware of that if you didn't speak the language." – Zozi 7T

"Diversity is a key part of Trinity Academy Leeds every student has a different story and different life. I personally think it is important to speak or understand other languages, as they are another form of understanding others, no matter their culture, background or language." – Yahya 9E

"I think it is important to speak languages because knowing other languages helps you to understand what other people are saying. There could be a chance that your friend or someone close to you can't speak English and you can help them by speaking a language that they know." – Jacky 8M

## Do you have any language goals for the future?

"I haven't entirely planned my future yet, but I'm thinking about becoming a teacher and teaching students how to speak Urdu and Punjabi." – Aileena 7M

"In the future I would like to travel to different countries around the world and learn about their culture and languages." – Jacky 8M

"When I am older I would like to travel to many countries and use the languages that I have already learned but also learn some more languages." – Hamza 8I

"I would like to learn to speak German because most of the acting techniques such as the 'Verfremdungseffekt' were created in Germany. I would like to know the history behind these German acting techniques. In the future, I would also like to take part in a language exchange programme." – Andre 9L

"I am already learning to read Arabic and Spanish. I enjoy learning and developing my knowledge, and in the future I would love to travel the world to see more and learn more about people, their cultures and how they live." – Aileena 7M

"I would like to learn Hebrew (the language of Israel) or to learn Arabic (the language of Saudi Arabia)." – Abenezer 7I

"I would like to travel the world and see different kinds of cultures through their language." – m Zozi 7T

## What or who inspires you to learn languages?

"Many people inspire me to learn languages, such as my teachers, myself and my parents. My friends also want me to learn their languages so I can speak to them in their different languages." – Hamza 8I

"The person that inspires me to learn new languages is my dad, because from young age I was exposed to learning French after visiting my dad's hometown." – Aleena 9L

"The people who encouraged me to learn new and different languages are my family, due to their culture, but also this staff at Trinity Academy Leeds who always teach really useful information about Spanish. However it is not only the teachers at school but also our diverse and multicultural community that inspires me to learn more." – Umar 7T

"The thing that inspires me to learn languages is the fact that by learning a new language, you can meet new people and make new friends." – Tyler 9A

"My friends inspire me to learn new languages. The way they speak their languages feels unique and makes me more interested to learn what they're saying." – Jacky 8M

"My Spanish teacher (Senorita Woodcock) inspires me to learn languages by helping us to feel confident and be successful in our Spanish lessons and assessments." – Aileena 7M

"What inspired me to learn languages is my love for acting, travelling and that I'm naturally inquisitive to learn about different cultures through travelling to different places. When I grow up I want to be an actor, so if I want to intrigue my audience, being able to speak different languages will enable me to do this." – Andre 9L

"When I have time, I watch Netflix and some shows are in different languages. I challenge myself, and instead of putting on subtitles I try to listen carefully and understand what they're saying." – Alisha 9E

"I really enjoy learning about different cultures and backgrounds. This inspires me to learn other languages." – Amani 7I

"My parents encouraged me to learn different languages so I can speak to people from all over the world." – Najm 8M

"My parents and my friends inspire me to learn languages because of the diversity of the languages they speak and it means that I can also learn about their culture." – Zozi 7T

"The thing that inspires me to learn new languages is the desire to connect with other people and cultures. For me, learning a new language gives me a sense of accomplishment. This is it because it gives me a whole new window into the world around me." – Chi 8U

"My parents inspired me to learn languages because I want to learn the same language as them so that I can understand what they say in their language." – Sharifah 8E

"People who are keen to teach a language that they know fluently (like my language teacher Senora Timpson) really inspire me to learn languages and to develop my understanding of different cultures. I am also inspired by people such as my mosque teacher, my family and my Arabic-speaking friends. They pushed me to learn about my native country's language a bit more at every opportunity they get. This has helped me significantly, and knowing I have people who support me strengthens my determination to learn languages fluently even more." – Yahya 9E

**Read more ...**

# Beautiful Work

We absolutely love seeing you all grow into fantastic linguists. We are so proud of the beautiful work you produce during your Spanish lessons.

Here are just some of the examples of beautiful work produced recently in Spanish!

Dicha que no prefiero las películas de acción porque son menos expresivas que las comedias. Mi película favorita es "The God God" Comedia mis amigos. Por eso, me gusta ver películas con ya que prima que será muy divertida. ¿Qué opinas? ¿Prefieres las películas de acción o las comedias?

En mi opinión, prefiero las películas de fantasía y acción que son más divertidas que las películas de acción. Me encantaría ir a un concierto. Mi película favorita es "Hacia el Sur" Sí, porque me gustaría ir a ver "Hacia el Sur" porque creo que será muy expresiva. ¿Estás de acuerdo? ¿Qué tipo de película vas a ver?

¡Ni hablar! Desde mi punto de vista, no prefiero las películas de terror, dado que son más irritantes que las películas de superhéroes. Mi película favorita es "Capitán América". Cuando tengo tiempo voy a ver "The Avengers" que es muy emocionante. ¿Qué

9E - Evie

**ESCRIBIR**

YOU DO  
Use the prompts to write sentences about where you are from. You must write in Spanish.

Country: Cuba Flag:	Soy de Cuba. La bandera es blanca y azul y rojo. ✓
Country: México Flag:	Soy de México. La bandera es verde y blanca y roja. ✓
Country: Reino Unido Flag:	Soy de Reino Unido. La bandera es blanca, roja y azul. ✓ <i>¡fantástico!</i>

9D - Hashim

**ESCRIBIR**

YOU DO  
Use the prompts to write sentences about what you prefer to do on holiday and where you would like to go. You must write in Spanish.

Weather: hot Activity: sunbathe Country: Spain Reason: the music	Durante las vacaciones cuando hace calor prefiero tomar el sol con mi familia. Me gusta ir a la playa porque me gusta la música. ✓
Weather: bad Activity: go out Country: Argentina Reason: the people	Durante las vacaciones cuando hace mal tiempo prefiero salir con mi familia porque es divertido. Si fuera rico me gustaría ir a Argentina dado que me interesa la gente. ✓ <i>¡perfecto!</i>

8L - Kavan

**ESCRIBIR**

YOU DO  
Use the prompts to write sentences about which concert you would go to and why. You must write in Spanish.

Artist: J Balvin Reason: exciting Genre: Reggaeton Reason: love	Prefiero la música reggaeton porque es muy guay. Si tuviera más tiempo me gustaría ir al concierto de J Balvin ya que la música es bastante divertida. ✓
Artist: Taylor Swift Reason: expressive Genre: Pop Reason: Not very	Prefiero la música pop porque es demasiado divertida. Si pudiera elegir con mi dinero, iría al concierto de Taylor Swift dado que la música es muy expresiva y es a horrible. ✓ <i>¡perfecto!</i>

9B - Hubert

**ESCRIBIR**

YOU DO  
Use the prompts to write sentences about which concert you would go to and why. You must write in Spanish.

Genre: reggaeton Reason: Cool Artist: J Balvin Reason: exciting	Lo que más me gusta es la música reggaeton ya que es bastante guay. Si pudiera elegir, iría al concierto de J Balvin porque su música es un poco emocionante. ✓
Genre: Pop Reason: not boring Artist: Taylor Swift Reason: expressive	Me gusta la música pop ya que es bastante divertida. Si tuviera más tiempo preferiría ir al concierto de Taylor Swift dado que su música es muy expresiva. ✓ <i>¡fantástico!</i>

9B - Ryan

**ESCRIBIR**

YOU DO  
Use the prompts to write sentences about what you prefer to do on holiday and where you would like to go. You must write in Spanish.

Weather: hot Activity: sunbathe Country: Spain Reason: the music	Durante las vacaciones, cuando hace calor, prefiero tomar el sol con mi hermana porque me es divertido. Si fuera rica, me gustaría ir a España porque me interesa la música. ✓
Weather: bad Activity: go out Country: Argentina Reason: the people	Durante las vacaciones, cuando hace mal tiempo, prefiero salir con mi abuela porque me gusta. Si fuera rica, me gustaría ir a Argentina dado que me fascina la gente. ✓ <i>¡perfecto!</i>

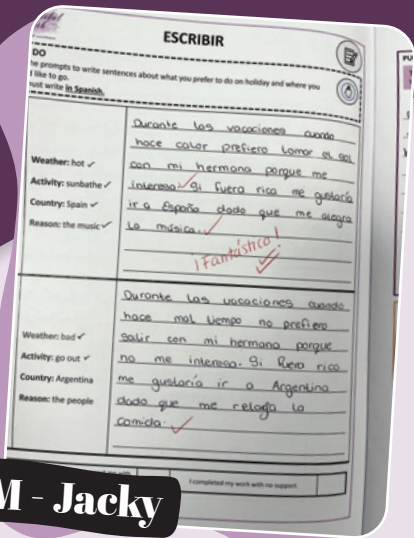
8T - Carmen

**ESCRIBIR**

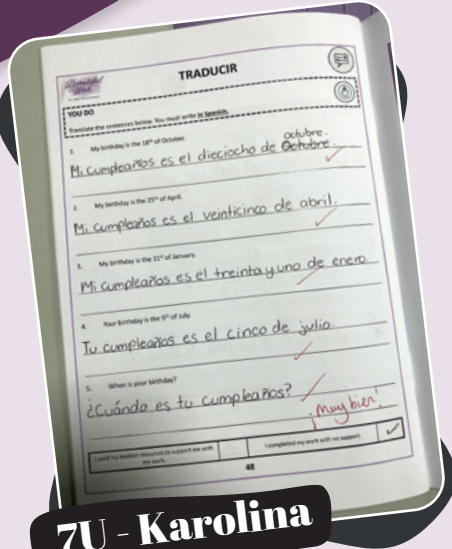
YOU DO  
Use the prompts to write sentences about where you are from. You must write in Spanish.

Country: Cuba Flag:	Soy de Cuba. La bandera es blanca, azul, blanco y rojo. ✓
Country: México Flag:	Soy de México. La bandera es verde, blanco y rojo. ✓
Country: Reino Unido Flag:	Soy de Reino Unido. La bandera es roja azul y blanca. ✓ <i>¡fantástico!</i>

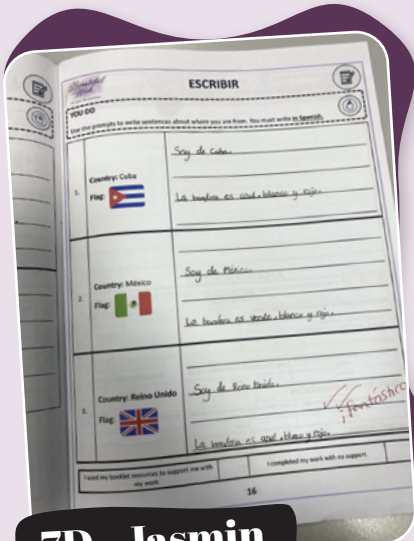
9D - Orla



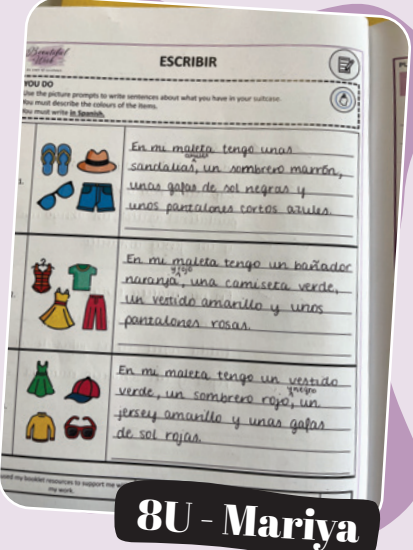
8M - Jacky



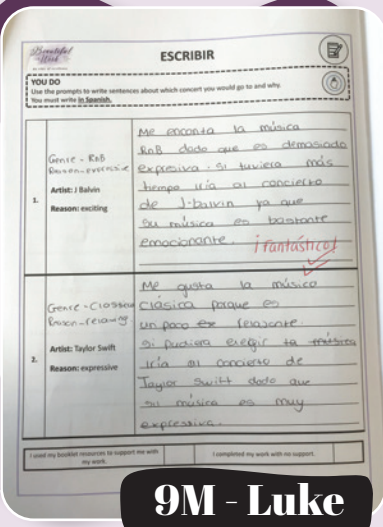
7U - Karolina



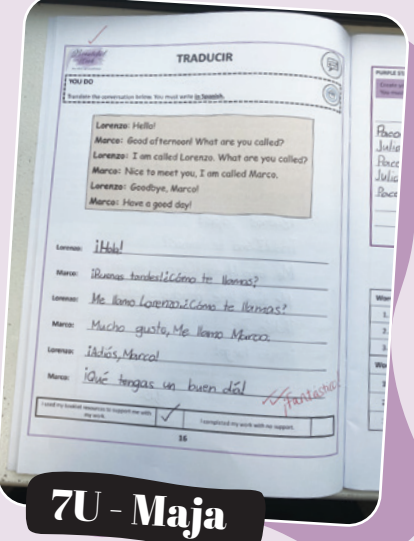
7D - Jasmin



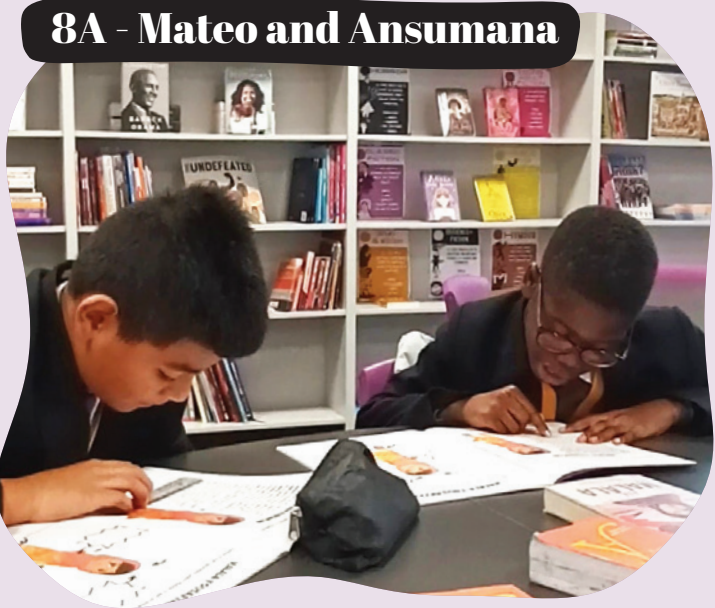
8U - Mariya



9M - Luke



7U - Maja



8A - Mateo and Ansumana

Read more ...

## MISS KOLOTA

I was born and grew up in Poland - Polish is my first language and the one I use to communicate with my family and some friends. I started to learn English during childhood and also French at secondary school. Although my French proficiency remains modest, achieving the ability to confidently order a cup of coffee in a French-speaking country feels like a triumph! The pursuit of French continues and I aspire to add another language into my repertoire – perhaps Spanish, Arabic or Romanian.

I have always wanted to learn other languages in order to explore diverse cultures. Travel has also been a driving force in picking up and trying to master phrases from a variety of languages. Some of my friends are from Czech Republic, Greece and Spain and they are always very eager to teach me some helpful phrases. Working in a multilingual and multicultural school like Trinity Academy Leeds is absolutely fantastic - as a school we speak over 50 languages and dialects and we can learn from each other so much!

I lived in the USA in my 20s and it added a vibrant layer to my linguistic experiences. Living in New York, a kaleidoscope of languages and cultures, heightened my appreciation for the beauty of linguistic diversity.

One of the most important things I have learnt when trying to master different languages is consistency and letting go of the fear of making mistakes. Even if you spend 10 minutes a day listening to songs in other languages, practising vocabulary or reading stories you are on the path to linguistic mastery!



## MISS RAJASAGARAN

### 1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are you learning?

I speak Tamil (a South Indian language) and Malay (a Southeast Asian language).

### 2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

It helps you have a deeper understanding of how your own language works, but it's also a window to other people's culture. This is because you learn sayings that you may have never come across otherwise, through contextual understanding. It is also such a great asset and skill that can help you in the future - in your career (more and more employers are seeking multilingual people, as they are bridges of communication). And of course, it is a great tool to get to know people from different backgrounds to yours! I believe that life would be pretty boring if you only communicated with people from your own cultural background.

### 3. What inspired you to learn languages?

English was out of necessity; it was expected in an English-speaking country like Malaysia (where I'm from). My parents made it a point to ensure I knew my mother tongue (Tamil), so I don't lose my roots and culture while trying to prioritise English. However, I would say speaking with my grandma is actually what made me properly learn Tamil. With Malay, it is the national language of my country, a language that many speak, so I made sure to prioritise it so I could converse with people that were from different backgrounds to me that could not comfortably speak English.

### 4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience?

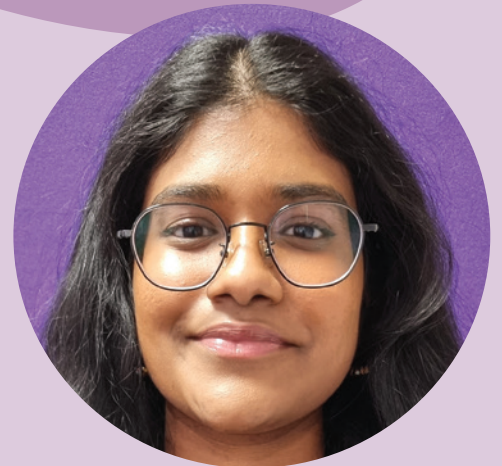
I lived in Malaysia and America. Malaysia is a melting pot of different races (Malay/Indian/Chinese and more), religions and cultures. Integration of different cultures resulted in many people borrowing words and phrases from each other's languages into everyday use. It has definitely brought people from very different backgrounds much closer. I've personally noticed the pattern in the etymology of certain words, and how the influence from different countries resulted in modern words we use today. But living and working in other countries has allowed me to immerse myself in their own cultures and traditions and way of thinking, and it has certainly influenced parts of my own adult life. I learned that there's always room for growth and change, and to be more open-minded, and not set in my own ways (because it's not always right). And to anyone who wants to work in a foreign country and worry about starting all over - know that there is growth in discomfort.

### 5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

Ideally, I would like to go back to brushing up my German. It was my additional language in high school, and I thoroughly enjoyed it; especially when I could see clear connections to how it influenced the English language.

### 6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

Make sure you are actively using the language (so a partner to converse with regularly in the language you are learning would be ideal). This ensures that you are applying your language skills in day-to-day life. I also found that watching movies, TV shows or reading books in the language that you are learning helps greatly, because you start to recognise words and see patterns in speech.





# MISS MAJEED BAIG



## 1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are you learning?

I am proficient in Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, and English.

## 2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

Understanding other languages is crucial for fostering cross-cultural communication, breaking down barriers, and gaining insights into different perspectives. It enriches personal and professional experiences.

## 3. What inspired you to learn languages?

The languages of Urdu and Punjabi are my mother tongue – I have been born and raised speaking these languages with my parents! Arabic is a language I became determined to learn at the age of 13 when I began reading Arabic texts within an Islamic Science course, winning a trophy for my Conversational Arabic skills. My passion for languages dwelled from that... ten years on I teach at the same place I was once a student.

## 4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience?

I have spent time in Pakistan, allowing to be deepen the connection with my heritage and understand, not only the language, but the culture of my parents homeland. I have visited countries such as Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Egypt – all Arabic speaking countries. This has helped with my communication.

## 5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

My language goals include deepening my proficiency in Arabic, expanding my knowledge of other languages, and exploring more about the cultural nuances within the Arabic-speaking world.

## 6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

Consistency is key; practice regularly through conversations and reading. Immerse yourself in the language as much as possible, and embrace the challenges as opportunities for growth.

Embrace your identity and your spoken language. Below is a quotation that sits quite deeply in my heart.

اے میرے پیارے اگر تم پردیس چلے جاؤ

اپنی سرزمین اور اپنی زبان کو مت بھولنا

**Oh my beloved, if you go to foreign lands  
Don't forget our land and our language**



# MR BOUDJABEUR

## 1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are you learning?

I speak Italian, Darija Arabic and Spanish.

## 2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

I believe it is important to speak different languages as it improves communication, cultural understanding and opens doors to new experiences.

## 3. What inspired you to learn languages?

I was taught Italian and Darija from my Italian and Algerian parents from birth. I learnt English when I went to primary school and learnt Spanish when I lived in Seville for two years as part of my undergraduate degree.

## 4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience?

I have lived and worked in Spain and I also lived in Italy for a year.

## 5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

In the future I would like to learn Portuguese.

## 6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

Surround yourself with people that know the language that you want to learn!



**Read more ...**

# Staff Voice

## MR FOX

### 1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are you learning?

I have learnt a some Spanish, Korean and a few words of Cebuano (a language spoken in the Phillipines).

### 2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

Billions of people across the world learn English as a second language and trying to learn another language helps me to show empathy; to know what it feels like to be in their shoes. This means that when my cousins from the Philippines make a mistake when speaking to me in English, I don't laugh or think how bad they are at English but rather "learning another language is difficult and you are doing a lot better than me at learning Cebuano!"

### 3. What inspired you to learn languages?

I have always loved to travel and to truly experience a culture you will need to learn their language. This probably stemmed from my mom speaking other languages. Since having children, it has reinvigorated me to learn Spanish because I want them to be fluent in another language and I would like to lead by example.

### 4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience?

Yes, I spent 3 years teaching English in South Korea. This was an amazing experience. When I had been in South Korea for 6 months, I made a conscious effort to learn Hangul (한글), the Korean writing system. Most Koreans my age or younger could speak English pretty well. However, the older generation could not as it was never taught to them in schools. When I would say a few phrases in Korean at restaurants, to taxi drivers, or to friend's parents their faces would light up. They would instantly be relaxed and a smile would always come across their faces.

### 5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

I will be fluent in Spanish one day.

### 6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

I think one of Mr. Weston's favourite quote sums up my best tip "If you add a little to a little often and do this often, soon the little will become great" -Hesiod.



## MRS KAY

### 1. What languages (other than English) do you speak or are you learning?

I have language qualifications in the following languages: French, Spanish, German and Arabic. My main secondary language is German and is the language other than English that I am most fluent in.

### 2. Why is it important to speak or have an understanding of other languages?

I have always enjoyed learning about languages as they are a great way to immerse yourself in another culture. I also love to travel and I like being able to communicate with people when I do that.

### 3. What inspired you to learn languages?

When I was in secondary school I studied both French and German. My teachers had a real passion for languages and that transferred to me. I loved speaking with them about their experiences and their lessons were always the most enjoyable.

### 4. Have you ever lived or worked in a country other than the UK? What did you learn from this experience?

I have previously lived in Germany for a period of time. I learnt a lot from the experience, but the main thing was that I was grateful to integrate well into society there because of the fact that I had great teachers at school.

### 5. Do you have any language goals for the future?

I am currently using duolingo as a way to sharpen my linguistic skills. I visited Italy last summer so was learning Italian on the app so that I could communicate when I was there. I have been using the app for several years have 2200 day streak! I will continue to use duolingo to ensure that I am always in touch with my linguistic skills.

### 6. Do you have any top tips for learning languages?

Practice. I have always learnt the most from speaking with people who come from the country. You may worry that you will get something wrong but actually the more you practice the better you will be.



# MR MAHMOOD

Hello everyone,

I want to share a bit about my journey with languages and how I use it to connect to my roots. I am a British Pakistani born in the United Kingdom and my household is a mix of English and Punjabi. Recently, I have started learning Urdu to dive even deeper into my cultural side.

English is the language I speak every day. In 1998, my father moved from Pakistan to England, just two years before I was born. Learning English was crucial for him to connect with the broader community and to navigate daily life with ease. Therefore, when I was growing up, English was the primary language spoken in our household.

Punjabi has now taken the spotlight! As a family we were so invested in fitting in, that we were losing connections with our motherland, Pakistan. Yes! I spent some time in Pakistan and wow, it was eye-opening. Visiting Pakistan made me realise that language is not just about talking, it is about understanding a whole way of life. It is like each word has a little bit of culture attached to it.

You may ask what inspired me to speak Punjabi and learn Urdu... The answer is simple, family! The stories my grandparents told, the laughter in Punjabi jokes – it all inspired me. I don't want these amazing bits of culture to fade away, so learning languages has become my way of preserving these awesome moments.

Languages are like doors to different worlds. Speaking Punjabi isn't just about the words, it's about increasing cultural awareness and becoming a global citizen. It is a gateway that helps me connect with my family and culture in so many ways.

Do I have any language goals for the future? Absolutely! I am determined to master Urdu. Learning Urdu will allow me to explore more regional areas and deepen my connection with my family.



**Celebrate where you come from.  
Embrace the languages that make you,  
YOU!**

## Top tips:

1. Immerse yourself - watch films and listen to music.
2. Practice regularly – the more you practice, the better you get.
3. Make mistakes – that's how you learn!
4. Enjoy the journey – learning a language is an adventure, not a race.



# Linguist of the Week

Each week we celebrate an exceptional linguist from each year group. Students are nominated by their teachers for shining brightly in their language lessons and making excellent progress. Every Linguist of the Week is given a certificate and a Spanish-themed prize, as well as 10 achievement points!

Listed below are the students who have been awarded Linguist of the Week so far this academic year (at time of publication), could you be next on the list?!

## YEAR 7:

Viktor Zavjalovs  
Laibah Waseem  
Kofi Seckely  
Amani Sufian  
Cody Vollans  
Abenezer Wolde-Selassie  
Reham Adam  
Oheneba Ababio  
Nashad Mohammed  
Abuelgasim Ahmed Ismail  
Jack Robinson  
Sonia Talla  
Janayah Wenham

## YEAR 8:

Sharifah Agga  
Kazi Aziz  
Kasey-Leigh Shore  
Oliwia Glos  
Yamna Ul-Haq  
Kian Miah  
Najm Al Faysal  
Excel Madusim  
Khady Ndiaye  
Keiran Chester  
Marya Hussain  
Madeleine Robinson  
Mariam Kank Enguema

## YEAR 9:

Yayha Haroon  
Jasmine Fielding  
Ansh Minhas  
Lybah Khurshid  
Aisha Ebrahim  
Desindu Samarasinghe  
Daniel Rennison  
Evie Jordan  
Romaisha Batool  
Hubert Dziewulski  
Caleb McAteer  
Tyler-James Mulligan-Redhead  
Greatdavid Ozioma

## iNos encanta 'Spanish Fridays'! (We love 'Spanish Fridays'!)

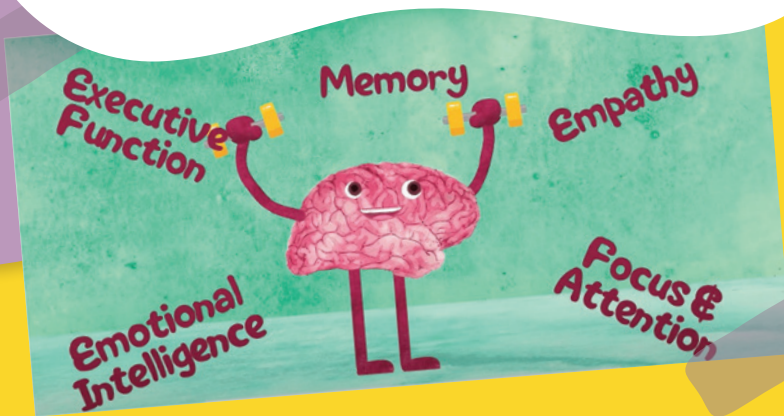
Every Friday at TAL, not only do we do Spanish Morning Recall and award our Linguist of the Week prizes, we also have 'Spanish Fridays'.

We absolutely love hearing beautiful STEPS from both students and staff at TAL.

If you need a little help with your STEPS in Spanish (or you'd like to teach someone at home), you can use this handy guide:

ENGLISH	SPANISH	SPANISH PRONUNCIATION
hello	hola	oh-lah
good morning	buenos días	boo-enn-oss dee-ahs
good afternoon	buenas tardes	boo-enn-ahs tar-dess
thank you	gracias	grah-theee-ahs / grah-see-ahs
you're welcome	de nada	deh nah-dah
goodbye	adiós	add-eee-oss
see you tomorrow	hasta mañana	ahs-ta man-yah-nah
have a good day	qué tengas un buen día	keh ten-gass oon boo-enn dee-ah

# Heritage GCSE



At TAL we are incredibly proud of our brilliant multilingual community. Being multilingual is like having a superpower.

Studies have shown that being able to communicate in more than one language has a range of benefits



Current Year 9 students will have the option to take an additional GCSE in a second language. Having two GCSE language qualifications could provide a real benefit for future studies and employment! The examinations for this additional qualification will take place during the summer term of Year 10. There will be dedicated preparation sessions to ensure you have all the tools you need to succeed.

**Do you speak one of the following languages at home?  
Are you able to read, write and speak in this language?**

German	Italian	Portuguese	Persian
Spanish	Polish	Biblical Hebrew	
French	Turkish	Gujarati	Bengali
Urdu	Panjabi	Chinese (Mandarin)	
Arabic	Japanese	Russian	Greek
	Modern Hebrew		

If you are interested in having the opportunity to gain an additional GCSE qualification in one of the languages on the list, and haven't already completed an 'expression of interest' form, it's not too late! Please speak to Miss Woodcock or Miss Kolota for more information.

**Our fantastic library has an amazing array of multilingual resources.**

Reading in different languages is an excellent way to develop your linguistic skills. Whether you're a fan of fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels or magazines; there's something for everyone!

Speak to Miss Kolota or a Reading Ambassador to find out more.



# Language challenges

How do you say "Hello" in different languages?

How many of these phrases for "hello" do you know?

You may need to ask your friends, family and teachers to help you!

Once you have completed the quiz, turn this page upside down to discover the correct answers.

Good luck!

answers at the bottom

1. bonjour
2. hola
3. privet ( привет )
4. nǐn hǎo ( 你好 )
5. ciao
6. konnichiwa ( こんにちは )
7. guten tag
8. olá
9. anyoung haseyo ( 안녕하세요 )
10. asalaam alaikum
11. yassas
12. dzień dobry
13. namaste, namaskar ( नमस्ते )
14. merhaba
15. shalom שלום

## How many of the languages challenges can you complete?

You can complete the challenges in any of the languages you know or are learning.

Your Spanish teachers would love to hear all about how you get on with them!



# The Great Languages Challenge



**Cook a dish** from a country where they speak the language you are studying



Change your **social media app settings** into the language you are studying for one hour



Find out which of your teachers can speak the most languages



Find out which language would be most helpful for your dream job



Find out the nationalities of the players in your favourite sports team



**Watch a vlog** in the language you are studying



List **ten countries** you would like to visit by the time you are 25 years old



Learn how to **write a phrase** in a language that has a different script



**Listen to a song** in the language you are studying



Find out the names of this year's **five most popular musicians** or bands in China



Find out how many of the **top 200 songs in the Spotify UK charts** are in a language other than English. How about in the language you are studying?



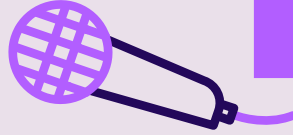
Write a short paragraph about a country where they speak the language you are studying that you would like to visit. Why would you like to visit it?



Find out which is the **world's most spoken language** and list the countries where it is the official language



Learn the **happy birthday song** in the language you are studying



Teach your parent or guardian a phrase in the language you are studying



**Find a video or cartoon** on YouTube in the language you are studying and watch it



Find out how to say the following **phrases** in the language you are studying:

- Excuse me**
- Could you repeat that?**
- Thank you**



**Look at the labels** on your clothes and work out which item was made furthest away



Learn ten new words in the language you are studying

# VOICE NEWSLETTER

10 EDITION 2024

## Thank you for reading our TAL Newsletter!

It means a lot for us to share our purple stars' voices and all the incredible things they are achieving at TAL.



Follow us for more!



@TrinityAcademyL



@TrinityAcademyL



@trinityacademyl

[leeds.trinitymat.org](https://leeds.trinitymat.org)

# LINGUIST OF THE WEEK



Coming soon!

# FUSION

THE POWER THAT FUELS US

A CELEBRATION OF  
DIVERSITY | BELONGING | CULTURE

#PurpleStars