



# Spring 1 EMAS Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 1 EMAS Newsletter

We hope you will find this newsletter informative and helpful. If you would like to see anything in particular included in the next edition, then please email ideas to [emasteachers@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:emasteachers@coventry.gov.uk)

## Celebrating diversity at West Coventry Academy

Our diversity is our biggest strength. To celebrate the multicultural and diverse nature of West Coventry Academy, we hosted our first ever culture day last week. During the day a variety of activities were on offer to selected students which included Japanese Calligraphy and a student dance and fashion show. In celebrating the range of different cultures within our school community, we had the opportunity to show pride in our own backgrounds and learn more about other cultures. The day itself included students wearing cultural clothing or colours and flags that celebrated their heritage and learning about culture and traditions of friends and peers around the school. Students also had the opportunity to immerse themselves in new cultures with a variety of foods from the canteen. Thank you to all our staff and students who made West Coventry Academy's first ever Culture Day a truly memorable event.

Student comments from culture day:

"I felt like I am back home with my own people and customs"

"I felt relaxed on that day"

"I was deeply overjoyed and so proud of my background"

"I would have loved to see more traditions to be shared across the school"

"It was amazing day as everyone could show their native colourful clothes"

" It was a great idea to promote your own culture"

" It was a happy day; most faces weren't recognisable as that day reflected their identity"

"Watching some traditional dances was heart- warming"

" It was a very emotional day as it reminded me about my home, family, and friends"



*Some of the outfits as part of the fashion show from our Year 7 students, and Sixth Formers bump into Guz Khan!*



*Just some of the great cultural outfits we saw on Friday!*



*Some flag crafts and rangoli inspired art as well as a taste of writing in Japanese for some of our students!*

## Coventry Language Schools Network Launch

### [Coventry Language Schools Network](#)

The Coventry Language Schools Network was established in 2024 and aims to improve the visibility of, enrolment in, and support for community language education in Coventry so that supplementary language schools can better support language use in this diverse city.

The website includes information about **Coventry's languages**; a language **school directory**; links to research on the **benefits of multilingualism**; and language **resources and support**

**for teachers, families and policymakers. Please share this link with your multilingual learners and their families.**



## Bell Foundation Exemplars

The Bell Foundation are in the very early stages of developing moderated exemplars of student work to sit alongside their EAL Assessment Framework. In providing exemplars, they aim to improve the accuracy and consistency in assessing English language proficiency and hope this will help decision-making around language support and targets.

They have created a short survey and would greatly appreciate you taking a few moments to complete this in order to help them understand how the exemplars might work best for you and your setting, and any involvement you may be happy to have going forward.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Exemplars>

We are looking forward to our next CPD - ***Supporting Multilingual learners using AI in the classroom and beyond***

taking place on **Thursday 6th February, online from 3:30-5pm** as we will be exploring the use of AI with multilingual learners both in the classroom and as a tool for communication with new arrivals and their families. **Beki Auld**, EAL Coordinator and Year 4 class teacher at Southfields Primary School and **Lewis Smith**, EAL Coordinator and English teacher at Barr's Hill Secondary School, will be sharing the strategies and resources that they use in the classroom and beyond.

This training is for EAL Leads, Primary and Secondary classroom teaching staff.

## Refugee Week 2025

Community as a Superpower is the theme of Refugee Week 16-22 June 2025.

Community is the incredible everyday. Ordinary and extraordinary. Simple acts of shared generosity. Kindness multiplied to become an unstoppable force!

*"We can begin the process of making community wherever we are. We can begin by sharing a smile, a warm greeting, a bit of conversation; by doing a kind deed or by acknowledging kindness offered to us." - bell hooks*

Communities can bring people together. Bridging divides and offering support. Spaces of resilience and places for healing.

This Refugee Week everyone is invited to spend time with friends and build new connections in and beyond our neighbourhoods. From communal meals and open air film screenings, to football matches and music making, let's share the feelings of welcome and belonging. Listening, learning, laughing together.

It's amazing what we can do when we move together towards a shared goal. So let's redefine and rediscover our collective power to shape hopeful futures and begin by practicing, celebrating and rehearsing it every day.

Book your place at the Refugee Week Conference here [Refugee Week 2025 Conference - Save the Date Tickets, Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

You can also join us on Thursday 6th March, 3:30 - 5:00 for our EMAS planning and inspiration session.



## Resources and ideas shared from Coventry Schools



1 - Henley Green celebrate the diversity within school.



2 - Celebrating multilingualism at Moseley Primary.



1 visuals to explain concrete ideas 	graphic organisers 	sentence starters <b>In my opinion...</b> 3
explain cultural references 4 	structured talk before writing 	teach collocations <b>give a speech give an example</b> 6
<b>dis-appear dis-prove</b> 7 explore affixation	include students' first languages 8 	9  speaking and writing frame
substitution tables 10 	focus on cohesive devices 	12  divide texts into shorter sections

3 - 10 EAL Classroom Strategies



4 - West Coventry Academy Inclusive Classroom Display

Enabling Access to Education for Children Seeking Safety



In this one-off online webinar, we will focus on place-based approaches to enabling access to education for children seeking safety, particularly those who arrival aged 14+ of in the middle of the school year.

In recent years, across our networks we have seen more challenges to access to education for children seeking safety, particularly those who arrive in their mid-late teens or in the middle of the academic year.

With schools, colleges and local authorities facing more pressures than ever, what approaches, practices or partnerships can help enable access to and participation in meaningful education for children?

In this one hour webinar, participants will learn about the key findings of [research conducted by Refugee Education UK and the Bell Foundation](#) into education provision for newly arrived displaced adolescents before hearing from different practitioners about models and approaches to overcome barriers to accessing and thriving in education.

When February 5th, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

[Enabling Access to Education for Children Seeking Safety | City of Sanctuary](#)

## Early Career Teachers

Explore the Bell Foundation's free, self-study modules for early career teachers.

The Bell Foundation have developed a free, self-study ECT and EAL series that ECTs and their mentors can use during the statutory, two-year [induction process](#) that was recently established for ECTs by the Department for Education, based on the [Early Career Framework](#).

[Early Career Teachers - The Bell Foundation](#)



## EMAS Spring Term Training Programme

A reminder of our upcoming training for this term:

- The Importance of supporting home language qualifications at GCSE - Tuesday 14 January 3.30pm - 5pm

- Effective communication with new communities for admin and reception (front of house) staff - Wednesday 15 January 10.30am - 12noon
- Healing Classrooms - Wednesday 22 January 9am - 12.30pm
- Supporting Multilingual learners in Maths at Primary - Thursday 30 January 3.30pm - 5pm
- Supporting Multilingual learners using AI in the classroom and beyond - Thursday 6 February 3.30pm - 5pm
- Comprehensible English for New Arrivals Using EAL (Primary) - Wednesday 12 February 3.30pm - 5pm
- Comprehensible English for New Arrivals Using EAL (Secondary) - Thursday 13 February 3.30pm - 5pm
- Refugee Week: Planning and Inspiration - Thursday 6 March 3.30pm - 5pm
- English as an additional language and Special Educational Needs - Thursday 20 March 3.30pm - 5pm
- The Bell Foundation; Adaptive Teaching for Learners using EAL for primary colleagues - Tuesday 25 March 3.30pm - 5pm
- The Bell Foundation: Adaptive Teaching for Learners using EAL for secondary colleagues - Wednesday 26 March 3.30pm - 5pm

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.

If you wish to attend, please contact our admin team on [admin.emas@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:admin.emas@coventry.gov.uk) or the EMAS teacher team [emasteachers@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:emasteachers@coventry.gov.uk) who will include you on the attendee list and a link to the MS Teams session will be sent out just prior to the CPD session.

Thank you to **Gosia Zienkiewicz** – *Head of MFL* from **Cardinal Wiseman School** for joining our CPD on ***The Importance of Home Language GCSEs*** and sharing her vast experience and expertise on organising and conducting home language exams for multilingual learners at GCSE and A Level.





## Heddle Free Masterclass Live Q&A Webinar

**Monday 20th January 2025 4:00 - 5:15pm**

Looking at teaching strategies, adapting resources and supporting multilingual learners. This masterclass is completely free to attend live. You can ask questions, share challenges and gain practical insights from three experienced educators:

**Bathsheba Wells Dion:** Tutor of our *Adapting Resources* course, ready to share her expertise on tailoring materials to meet the diverse needs of your learners.

**Charlotte Bowyer:** Tutor of our *Reading and Writing* courses, specialising in building literacy skills in multilingual classrooms.

**Kieran Mackle:** Tutor of our *Language of Maths* course, here to help you support EAL learners in mastering mathematical language and concepts.

Whether you're a seasoned EAL educator or new to the field, this session is designed to support you in making a greater impact in your classroom.

The recording and resources will be available on the members' site afterwards.



## Dates for the diary

[National Storytelling Week](#) (1 - 9 February 2025). National Storytelling Week could be a great opportunity to include multilingual storytelling in your classroom by engaging willing parents

or school staff in telling stories in their languages to all learners. Here is a useful list of excellent [multilingual storybooks](#) to support you.

Plan ahead for [International Mother Language Day](#), which is celebrated every year on 21 February. The day aims to raise awareness of language and cultural diversity and multilingualism. This could be a good opportunity to link this to the National story-telling week mentioned above.

