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I learnt that there is more to languages than speaking and listening. It is also about thinking in your own way. >>

13-year-old, after participating in a QTE programme

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Language learning in schools across the UK has been in major decline for years. The number of pupils taking French GCSE has dropped by more than half over the past 20 years in England, and numbers taking German GCSE have fallen by two thirds. There is also a growing social divide: pupils at independent schools are far more likely than those at state schools to learn a language beyond the age of fourteen.

Yet there are so many more advantages to learning a language than acquiring a new language itself. The discipline involves the ability to think critically, to be immersed in another culture, to see the perspective of others. All of which opens so many doors not only to the world of work in an increasingly global market, but also to a deeper understanding and appreciation of that wider world.

You can help QTE open those doors to young people, and nurture their creativity and potential.

FROM A CURRENT STUDENT



QTE was the main reason why I decided to apply to Queen's. After participating in the International Book Club and the Anthea Bell Prize, I became sure that the Queen's community would be for me. They were incredibly enriching and yet inclusive and welcoming - projects. >>

Eva Bailey (French and English, 2021)



The Old Members' Office The Queen's College High Street Oxford OX1 4AW

Tel: +44 (0) 1865 279217 Email: development@queens.ox.ac.uk www.queens.ox.ac.uk

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NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LINGUISTS

Queen's is on a mission to enrich and transform the teaching and learning of modern languages across the UK. Now we need your help.

The number of UK school pupils taking foreign languages at GCSE and A-level is in decline, and there are fewer applicants to study languages at university – including here at Oxford.

In 2018, the College established the Queen's College Translation Exchange (QTE), an access and outreach initiative with a mission to reverse this decline.

Since then, QTE has run programmes for over 25,000 language teachers and pupils, and has trained over 250 undergraduates as "Creative Translation Ambassadors" to deliver workshops in schools. Increasingly, applicants for undergraduate, postgraduate and postdocs cite QTE as their reason for applying to Queen's.

With your support, we can expand and enhance our current activities to meet the growing demand from the next generation of linguists and their teachers.

Dr Charlotte Ryland

Director of the Queen's College Translation Exchange and Supernumerary Fellow

BRINGING CREATIVITY TO THE CLASSROOM

The Queen's College Translation Exchange runs various activities in schools, and designs materials for teachers to use in the classroom to bring translation to life.

THE ANTHEA BELL PRIZE

The Anthea Bell Prize is a national translation competition open to all UK school students aged 11 to 18. The competition is named after Anthea Bell, an influential English literary translator.

The prize has quickly become a runaway success. In 2023, more than 15,000 pupils took part, and over 1,300 teachers have registered to access our extensive library of teaching resources, which are currently in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Mandarin and – soon – Russian.

The cost for this programme is £32,000 (roughly £2 per student participant) per year.

AMBASSADORS SCHEME

On dedicated training days held at Queen's, modern languages undergraduates are trained as 'Creative Translation Ambassadors'. These ambassadors are taught how to design and deliver engaging translation workshops to primary and secondary school pupils in schools around the UK.

QTE has trained over 250 students from Oxford, Norwich, Durham, Sheffield and London, who have delivered workshops to more than 3,750 pupils.

The cost per year to train 44 ambassadors is £20,000 (or £454 per student ambassador) per year.

THINK LIKE A Linguist

This project encourages young people aged 12 to 14 to consider languages from multiple perspectives, so they can make informed choices about languages at GCSE. Their parents and carers are also involved in the process.

Each school in the scheme receives five monthly interactive sessions, plus a visit to a university. QTE is currently working in Rochdale with six schools that previously had very low uptake of languages.

The cost of providing sustained language and translation help to Year 8 students and their parents in six schools is £15,000 per area, per year.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUBS

QTE offers free guidance and support to teachers around the UK to run international book clubs in their classrooms. QTE also facilitates an international book club for sixth-formers, held in partnership with our broader Access and Outreach activities, which usually includes a talk by a translator.

Resources available to teachers include guides on running a book club, as well as guides to various novels in translation.

The cost of providing free guidance and support to teachers around the UK to run international book clubs is £8,000 per year.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

By making your gift to the Queen's College Translation Exchange, you can help inspire future generations of linguists. Every gift – regardless of size – makes a valuable and immediate difference to the College's ability to share our programmes with UK schools.

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