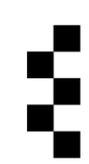




Action for languages: Encouraging the new generations to become multilingual

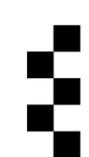
Daniela Carboni

ML Outreach Liaison Officer



English is not enough

- A survey by the European Commission shows that 62% of the UK population only speak English, and that children in the UK are the worst in Europe for learning foreign languages.
- The same survey also shows that people who know a foreign language are more likely to be employed.

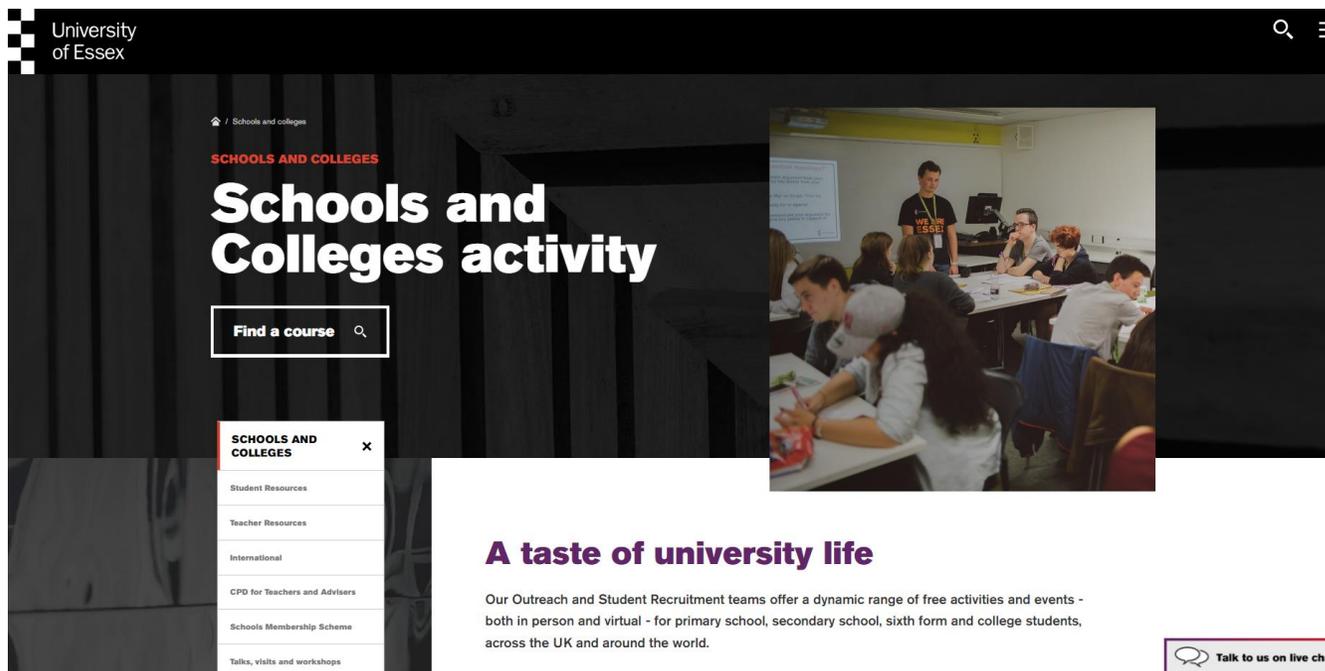


Language learning is in danger in the UK!

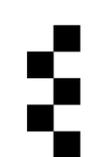
- Ever since languages were taken out of the compulsory curriculum in secondary schools in 2004, language learning in schools has declined significantly.
- There has been an overall reduction of 19% in the number of entries for GCSE languages since 2014, with both French and German seeing a decline of 30%. (British Council, 2019)
- At A-level, the same trend in decline is occurring.
- This trend negatively affects language learning in Higher Education as well.

University of Essex Outreach

A team that works with schools and colleges across Essex, Suffolk and East London to promote access to university.



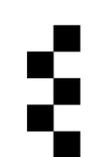
The screenshot shows the University of Essex Outreach website. The header includes the University of Essex logo and a search icon. The main content area features a dark background with the text "SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES" in red and "Schools and Colleges activity" in white. Below this is a "Find a course" search box. A sidebar menu is open, listing "SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES" with a close button, and several sub-items: "Student Resources", "Teacher Resources", "International", "CPD for Teachers and Advisers", "Schools Membership Scheme", and "Talks, visits and workshops". A large image on the right shows a group of students in a classroom setting. Below the image, the text reads "A taste of university life" followed by a paragraph: "Our Outreach and Student Recruitment teams offer a dynamic range of free activities and events - both in person and virtual - for primary school, secondary school, sixth form and college students, across the UK and around the world." A "Talk to us on live chat" button is visible in the bottom right corner.



What do we do?

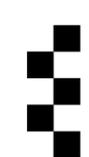
The ML Outreach team aims to promote:

- Access to higher education
- Languages as a career option
- The idea that we live in a multilingual society
- Language learning is for everyone
- Interest in languages



How do we achieve this?

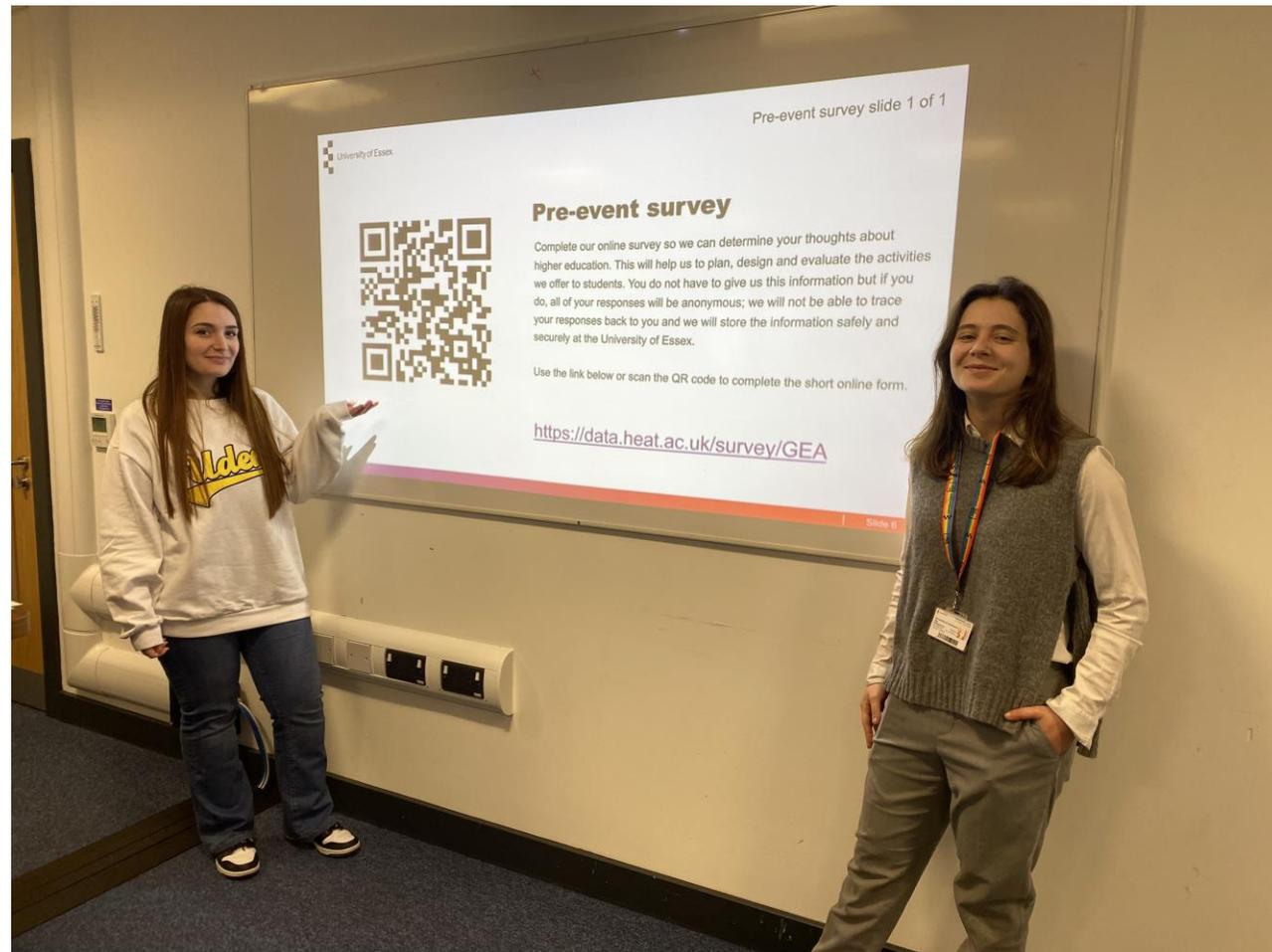
- Informative sessions
- Motivational speeches
- Languages tasters
- Dissemination of language
learning techniques

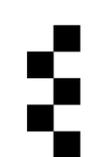


Colchester Academy



- Language tasters in Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian
- Informative talks about the importance of languages



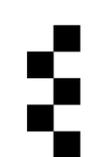


Clacton County High School



- Language tasters in Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian
- Informative talk about job opportunities with languages



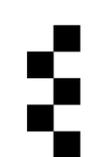


Manningtree High School



- Talk on career options with languages



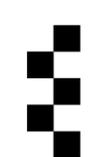


Harwich and Dovercourt High School



- Language taster in Italian
- Informative talk about job opportunities with languages



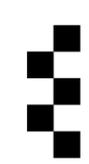


Chauncy School



Presentation of Language and Linguistics research areas through interactive activities (quiz)

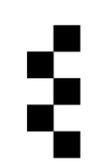




St. Helena School

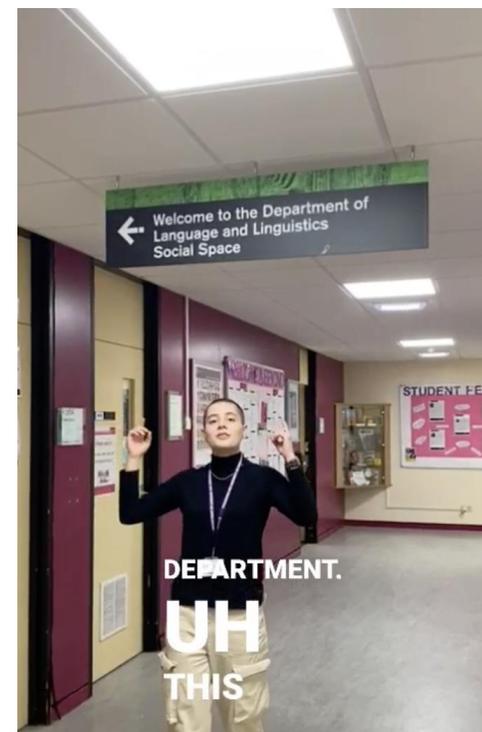
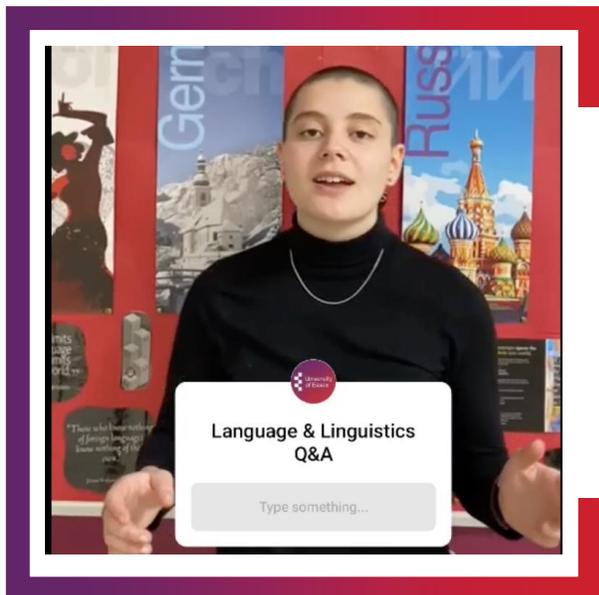
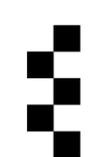


- Participation to schools
“Careers Fair”

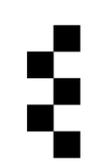


Your experience

- What encourages students to study a language?
- What discourages them?
- Do you think that heritage speakers are more attracted by languages?
- What changes can you implement to make your students more interested in languages?



- In order to encourage students to consider languages as a subject choice, the ML Outreach Team used the power of social media to disseminate information, specifically the University's Instagram.



Queen Boudica Project

- 4 French finalists preparing material and delivering language workshops to KS2 pupils
- Part of a placement with the University of Essex
- Self-reflective evaluation by the finalists integrated in the assessment of their university course



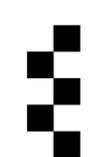
What is VTeam?



- VTeam is run by the Students' Union (SU) which organises all sorts of volunteering opportunities for students.
- All projects in which attendance to schools is required, volunteers have to undertake and pass safeguarding and conduct training.
- The SU covers travel arrangements and expenses - no cost to schools.
- Volunteers are covered by SU Insurance.

Lingo Project

- Lingo is a language teaching program.
- Lingo is one of the student-run volunteering projects, run by a committee (Including a Project Leader, Comms Officer, Promotions Officer and multiple Session Leaders).
- Sessions are run by a Session Leader and some student volunteers, in an after school club, weekly (during term time).
- All volunteers have to undertake and pass safeguarding and conduct training,
- The Project Leader ensures all volunteers have a good understanding of the language they are teaching.
- We like to meet with schools to discuss curriculum/age ranges so we can tailor sessions accordingly.
- Expressions of interest can be sent to **vteam@essex.ac.uk**



References

- https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Foreign_language_skills_statistics
- <https://www.sanako.co.uk/News/How-investing-in-language-education-boosts-national/>
- <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/research-reports/language-trends-2019>



Thank you

essex.ac.uk