



German Teachers' Day Online: Session Summaries and Speaker Biographies

Key Note: Dr. Liam Printer

The results are in: It's time we focused less on examination and more on motivation.

The study of foreign languages is reaching a crisis point in the UK. More and more students are dropping languages with successive Language Trends reports noting a significant decline in the number of students opting to take French or German. At A-level the uptake has more than halved between 2005 and 2020 while GCSE has witnessed a drop of over 60% in both French and German. Nonetheless, there is an antidote to this virus, and it is entirely free to administer! Educational research consistently finds that motivation, and particularly intrinsic motivation, is the key factor in young people achieving their potential and succeeding at school. Recent research highlights the dynamic link between foreign language retention and motivation, finding that more students want to continue studying the language if their motivation is of higher quality. Indeed, improving students' learning experience has been found to increase uptake and retention of students in language courses in studies across the globe. But how do we do it? How do we foster genuine, intrinsic, motivation? Teachers, the activities they use and their individual teaching style are regularly identified in the research as central components in foreign language learner motivation. Unsurprisingly, when students display high levels of motivation this positively impacts the teacher's own feelings of competence and contentment in their work with research confirming that a motivated teacher will lead to more motivated students. The central aim of this keynote talk is to provide attendees with a solid grounding in the educational evidence behind Self-Determination Theory of intrinsic motivation and how to put it into practice in the classroom. Teachers will leave the talk with several low-prep, easy to implement, practical activities based on educational research that are proven to build both student and teacher motivation in the language classroom.



Dr. Liam Printer is a published author, presenter, researcher, teacher and most importantly, a language learner. He speaks six languages but says 'none of them perfectly'. His Doctorate in Education at The University of Bath focussed on motivation and teaching languages through storytelling and his research has now been published in two peer reviewed journals. In addition, he shares his research and classroom experiences on The Motivated Classroom podcast which has had over 40,000

downloads to date from over 150 different countries. Liam currently works full time at the International School of Lausanne in Switzerland as both a Spanish teacher and The Leader of Pedagogical Innovation and Approaches to Learning Coordinator. Dr. Printer has been invited as a guest speaker to a variety of international language teaching conferences in Ireland, France, the UK, Switzerland, the Netherlands and The United States. He has also worked as an educational consultant around language teaching and motivation with schools in Finland, China, Luxembourg, Belgium and Switzerland. For a more detailed bio you can visit his website www.liamprinter.com.

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Session 1: Tom Pandolfino - the polyglot teacher bringing languages to life

Learning German can be challenging and leave many students feeling demotivated. With the ongoing challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the UK's new relationship with the EU, MFL teachers are navigating uncharted territory. In light of this, it is vital to restore German's place within the UK curriculum. The aim of this presentation is to equip German teachers with ideas to encapsulate German learners. At the same time, this presentation will allow teachers to reflect on ways to further their own motivation for the subject. A vibrant and living passion for German amongst teachers and learners is an essential way to guarantee its prosperity in UK schools.



Tom Pandolfino is a teacher of MFL (German and Russian) at Woodbridge High School. An avid language learner and polyglot, Tom speaks several languages to varying degrees of fluency. After graduating from the University of Bath and UCL, Tom entered teaching in 2019 and undertook his PGCE at the University of Brighton. Prior to teaching, Tom worked in political risk and had work published in the Daily Telegraph and the New European. As an undergraduate, Tom won a DAAD summer scholarship to study in Berlin and later completed a six-month internship at EY in Stuttgart. In

2021, Tom was featured in the [Observer](#) Magazine, concerning language teaching and the place of languages in schools.

Session 2 Show & Tell

In this session we will hand over to 3 teachers to share something that has worked well to motivate their students in the German classroom.

Session 3 Goethe-Institut Library for German Teachers

In addition to what our Educational Services Department offers, teachers will find a number of resources in the library and e-library for use and help with lesson preparation. In this session you will find out what offers we have for German teachers at the Goethe-Institut Library both online and in-person.

Presenters:



Adrienne Winkler, Library Assistant, Goethe-Institut London

Nel Wieschermann, Intern for Information & Library, Goethe-Institut London

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Session 4 Goethe-Institut Updates for German Teachers

In this session you will find out what offers and initiatives the Goethe-Institut London has for German teachers and German students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Presenters:



Lucy Taylor, Project Coordinator for Educational Services, Goethe-Institut London



Domini Stone, Manager for Educational Links, Goethe-Institut London