



Working with community stakeholders for engagement

26 March 2026



**UNIVERSITY
OF WARWICK**



LANGUAGE LEARNERS AS PEACEMAKERS



June- October 2025



Resonate Festival — The Booknic

We will be contributing to a local schools' family day in the War Memorial Park on Saturday 28 June as part of the University's Resonate Festival to promote community, creativity and reading. Children will be able to have a go at making Japanese Peace Cranes and Korean bookmarks with our SMLC staff,



Mother Tongue Other Tongue — Poetry Exhibition

Our annual poetry competition for primary and secondary schools will be based on the themes of peace, reconciliation and embracing diversity and our entries will be exhibited in The Chapterhouse in Coventry Cathedral from 2 July to the end of the school summer holidays.



Coventry Cathedral Multilingual Family Visitor Activities

Our staff have created a set of multilingual resources for families visiting the cathedral during the school summer holidays to reflect on the themes of peace, reconciliation and embracing diversity. This is a celebration of how intercultural awareness and empathy for others can be a conduit for peace and are delighted to have enlisted support from the Coventry Young Poet Laureate Aamani Kanda. We have commissioned Aamani to contribute a poem for our visitor booklet.



Our stakeholders:

- Coventry Cathedral staff team
- SMLC staff team- 10 members of staff
- SMLC student ambassadors and URSS Project
- External connections: Coventry Young Poet Laureate, German Dresden Twinning Group
- Local schools (Poetry Comp, Design for Visitor Booklet, Attend Cathedral October schools' event)
- Resonate team at Warwick
- 60th Anniversary Team at Warwick

How did we encourage them to engage?

Vary messaging/ what do they gain from taking part?

Practicalities, skills and data

Practical bits:

- Administration of project plan
- Communications/emails/ Teams channels/MS lists
- In person meetings, visits, getting to know the space, people, ethos

Skills used:

- Persuasion, communication, creativity, keeping momentum, allocating clear roles, keeping a sense of a team and clear purpose, setting deadlines and sticking to them, adaptability and flexibility, promotion, marketing (Eventbrite, Coventry Rocks, Whats On and flyers)

Data:

Resonate Booknic	~550 attendees
Mother Tongue Other Tongue Poetry	~300 entries
Year 9 School event	60 students
Evening Talks	90 attendees
Visitor Activity Booklet	250 copies distributed



The Wins:

```
graph TD; A[The Wins:] --- B[Contributed to mission of the Cathedral- peace and reconciliation and Coventry as multi-lingual city]; A --- C[Increased visitors to Cathedral with poetry exhibition/ booklet]; A --- D[SMLC team working together, Language sections, Language Centre Team and Professional Services]; A --- E[Enabled our students to take part ( Booklet design URSS, Ambassadors at schools' event, alumna)]; A --- F[Cemented connections with key Coventry schools for our languages outreach work];
```

Contributed to mission of the Cathedral- peace and reconciliation and Coventry as multi-lingual city

Increased visitors to Cathedral with poetry exhibition/ booklet

SMLC team working together, Language sections, Language Centre Team and Professional Services

Enabled our students to take part (Booklet design URSS, Ambassadors at schools' event, alumna)

Cemented connections with key Coventry schools for our languages outreach work



Our Challenges:

- Over committing
- Moving from ideas to end products- getting the timing right
- Budget (VAT)
- Staff commitment
- Cathedral Staff turnover
- Media/Tech design/printing/external SF Taylor
- Evaluations stipulated by Warwick team were only suited to adults
- Lack of central evaluation template for stakeholders
- Finances for future projects?

Olesia – Hearsall Primary Academy

Hi, my name is Olesia. I came to Coventry because of war in Ukraine three years ago. I speak Ukrainian, English and a little Spanish.

Poem

Моє серце розмовляє кількома мовами,
Трохи сумує, бо дім далеко,
Трохи сміється, бо родина поруч,
Як добре, що мої відчуття можна передати
Різними словами.

Моє серце розмовляє кількома мовами,
Немає важливої чи неважливої,
Однією ти розмовляєш з мамою,
А іншою з подругою та вчителькою.

Моє серце розмовляє кількома мовами,
Не важливо, де ти- важливі люди навколо,
Не важливо, якого кольору небо,
Якщо посмішки довкола.

Translation

My heart speaks some languages
It feels a bit sad, as my home is far away,
It feels a bit happy, as my family is with me.
My feelings are now in different words.

My heart speaks some languages,
No major, no minor
One language you speak with your mum
And the other with your friend and a teacher.

My heart speaks some languages,
No matter where you are,
What really matters – people around you.
No matter what colour the sky is, if everyone
smiles to you.

Explanation

This poem is based on the repetition 'My heart speaks some languages'. I wrote this poem because I moved to a new place, and I started speaking a new language here. I still speak my home language with my parents, and a different one with my friends, teachers and neighbours. I am learning one more new language. In my poem I wanted to show that it's okay to be different. People who come from different places and speak different languages can be friends. It doesn't matter what language you speak or where you come from, what matters is being kind to each other. One of my favourite book characters is Paddington Bear. He said: 'Everyone is different and it means anyone can fit in.' I think this works for me too.



