

Irish Sign Language

Irish Sign Language (ISL) has developed and grown here in Ireland over generations. Spoken or signed with one hand, it's a physical and interactive language, with the face and body playing a vital role in its communication. Its shared culture, community and history unite over 40,000 deaf people throughout Ireland. It's a stand-alone language, every bit as much as English or Irish, with its own set of rules, grammar and features.

An Post and Literacy

Literacy is an issue for people of all ages, and in response to this, An Post is raising awareness of the benefits of education and life-long learning. The **'What's the Story? Challenge'** is the primary school competition in this year's Education Awards, asking children to develop a story together as a class. **'Take the First Step'** is a literacy awareness campaign targeted at adults who experience difficulty with numbers and letters. The **'Take the First Step'** literacy helpline (1800 20 20 65) received over 10,000 calls last year and the campaign is run in co-operation with the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). **'Log On, Learn'** is a computer literacy programme now running in secondary schools, whereby Transition Year students 'buddy up' with older people in their community to teach them computer skills while learning about each other's interests and skills.

Competition Details

The Deaflympics is a series of events, sanctioned by the International Olympic Council, where deaf athletes from around the world compete at an elite level. An Irish team has competed at every Deaflympics since the 1973 Games in Malmö, Sweden. At the most recent 2005 Games, Ireland won four Gold, five Silver and two Bronze medals in Melbourne, Australia. The Irish Team taking part in the 2009 Deaflympics in Taipei, Taiwan, hope to do even better! The **'Lost in Translation'** competition demonstrates the importance of communication, whatever form it takes, and allows students to experience this language, which is vital to so many people, all while showing support for our Team in this year's Deaflympics.

Competition Categories

Category One: Lost in Translation Junior Cycle (First, Second and Third Years)

Students must translate the passage of the Irish Sign Language Alphabet into written English, then identify the phrase that is being communicated.

Category Two: Lost in Translation Senior Cycle (Transition, Fifth and Sixth Years)

Students must translate the passage of the Irish Sign Language Alphabet into written English, then identify the sports-related phrase that is being communicated.

Prizes

Student prizes (Eight prizes)

From each regional draw the entry of one lucky student will be selected from both the Junior Cycle and the Senior Cycle. Each student will receive an individual prize to the value of €300. Each student who is selected will also win prizes for their school, principal and teacher.

School prizes

The school prize is awarded on the basis of the individual student entry selected in each of the four regional draws. One school in each region will receive a crystal trophy and a prize to the value of €500 in recognition of their participation.

Principal prizes

The principal of each student selected in the regional draw will receive a prize of a €200 One4all® Gift Voucher.

Teacher prizes

The teacher of each student selected in the regional draw will receive a prize of a €200 One4all® Gift Voucher.

Rules and Regulations

1. The competition promoter is An Post. The competition is open to students attending Secondary Schools in the Republic of Ireland on 16th February 2009.
2. Students entering Category One must be attending First, Second or Third Year on 16th February 2009.
3. Students entering Category Two must be attending Transition, Fifth or Sixth Year on 16th February 2009.
4. Each completed entry form (included in the resource pack) must include full entry details for each category (student name, year, school name, telephone number and name of English teacher).
5. The competition is based on the English curriculum. Entries must be completed in the English language.
6. Each entry must be completed on the forms provided. One entry per form and individual entries only will be accepted. Please photocopy more sheets if required.
7. Entries should be sent back by either using the prepaid envelopes provided, or by Freepost, to: Lost in Translation, PO Box 11201, Freepost, Dublin 1.
8. By entering the competition entrants agree to be bound by the rules. An independent panel of judges will be selected to judge the entries for Categories One and Two. The judges' decisions are final. No correspondence will be entered into.
9. Entries will not be returned, please keep an extra copy for the school file. Entries must be received by the competition promoter no later than Friday 20th March 2009.

Closing Date

The closing date for all entries is Friday 20th March 2009.



lost translation

2009 An Post Secondary Schools' Education Awards



Your LOST IN TRANSLATION challenge starts here!

The Irish Sign Language Alphabet is spoken or signed with one hand. It is a language that has been passed down for generations and 40,000 Irish people use it every day. Take 15 minutes to study the signs below then translate the words overleaf. But take care... to be in with a chance of winning you will need to make sure that nothing gets LOST IN TRANSLATION. You can also write a short message of support for the Irish Deaflympic Team. An Post thank The Irish Deaf Sports Association for their participation. For more information on the 21st Summer Deaflympics, please visit www.irishdeafsports.net or www.2009deaflympics.org.



The Irish Sign Language Alphabet



Follow the signs and you could be onto a winner.

Simply translate the words below from the Irish Sign Language Alphabet into written English. Please photocopy more sheets if required.

Category 1: Junior Cycle

Translation...

Category 2: Senior Cycle

Translation...

Write a message to the Deaflympic Team!

Write your message of support for the Irish Deaflympic Team, in written English, in the space provided and An Post will create a giant postcard of everyone's good wishes, which will be delivered to the Team.

STUDENT DETAILS:

Name: _____ Teacher: _____

School Name: _____ Year: _____

School Telephone: _____