**Modern Language Assistants in Scottish schools - transcript**

Female: What's this in Chinese?

Male: [Dialogue in Chinese].

Female: And what's this one?

Female: [Dialogue in French].

Female: Marianne brings youth, enthusiasm, motivation, tremendous support for the teachers. The British language assistants tend to be somebody quite young, somebody who's maybe just finished their studies or is in the middle of studying at university.

Female: For me, the fact I'm young, it helps pupils to feel comfortable with me.

Female: She is quite young and I think that's partially why we feel more confident in class as well, because she has similar interests and she isn't much older than us. So it's really good.

Female: So some of the benefits of having a British Council language assistant in the classroom have been supporting me as the teacher in delivering Mandarin which obviously, in terms of pronunciation, is very difficult. So having a native speaker is fantastic.

Female: What's this one in Chinese?

Male: [Dialogue in Chinese].

Female: [Dialogue in Chinese].

Female: Marianne, or any assistant, brings an up-to-date view of the foreign country, whether it's the media, whether it's current affairs, new language which is an invaluable asset in our team.

Female: Having access to a native speaker who has recently come from the country allows us to see French from a different angle.

Female: There's a real impact when you have a native speaker within the school, both in terms of the excitement that generates from pupils being able to engage with somebody from a different culture.

Female: She's our walking dictionary. Without her, our courses would not be as interesting.

Female: The specific advantages of the British Council language assistant program would be that it's coordinated, that you know that if you go to the British Council and work with them in cooperation, then they deliver in terms of the quality of language assistants who are coming through the program.

Female: Obviously all the children have really responded well to all the songs and activities and games they've been doing. It really helps them to remember.

Female: It's given teachers the support that they've needed to teach languages, so it's been a really positive initiative for us.

Female: Curriculum for Excellence and language learning go together. Pupils become confident if they're in a comfortable environment where they're encouraged to experiment. They become better communicators. So we have many opportunities in modern languages with the new curriculum and we're quite excited.

Male: Yes, it does make a huge difference to results. If pupils have an interest in their studies, in the world round about them, then they're happier pupils, they take their studies more seriously and they know that there is a world out there that they're going to be part of and they want to play a very positive part of that society.

Female: Having Marianne is really, really good. It helps improve our French massively. She also boosts our confidence, because for myself, I'm very shy in class, but she gets everyone involved. It's really good having her.