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BRITISH COUNCIL **#English4U (issue 8)**

BRITISH COUNCIL **eTwinning** Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

eTwinning climate change challenge **13 CLIMATE ACTION**

Urgent take

Choose an animal who is endangered by climate change, as your **eco-warrior**

Make a **pledge** and **journal** of your actions

Plant one or more:
 Vegetable
 Herb
 Plant

Find, tell and/or **sing** a story about the impact of climate change

Make a **climate change T-Shirt** out of old clothes

Recycle used materials to make something useful

Make a seasonal, sustainable, meat-free meal using locally produced ingredients

Draw emoji's for the top five single-use plastic polluters in our oceans

Reduce time spent in the shower by **TWO** minutes

Find out how warming water contributes to rising sea levels

Find an **image** which demonstrates the impact of climate change

Find out your country's share of fuel emissions and **cycle** to help or walk

Make a **sign** calling for whatever you want your leaders to do on climate change

Discover how many devices are switched on unnecessarily in your home

Calculate how big your carbon footprint is

Dear colleagues,

This is a very special edition of our **#English4U** newsletter since we are at the closing stage of our fiscal year. We are pleased to share that we were able to deliver **13 direct actions** as part of our English portfolio, all of them through digital platforms.

We also want to take this opportunity to share some news on the events that we have been involved with during last two months, despite of the increased impact of COVID-19 pandemic:

For the first time, 20 Cuban English Language Teachers (ELTs) from different educational levels had the opportunity to participate in **BBELT 2021** Special Edition for its 30th anniversary hosted by our office in Mexico. The group attended the virtual academic forum designed to introduce the latest trends and new ideas in ELT.

We resumed our latest **collaboration with UCI** with the support of UK experts as invited British Faculty partners through a series of workshops addressing different themes of ESP like: "The use of ICT in distance education", "An introduction to academic writing in English" and on assessment and evaluation with "Fundamentals of language assessment and testing".

We also concluded another workshop for "**Mentors in Action**", this time in a digital way. Carried out under the academic and methodological guidance of the British educational organization St. Giles Educational Trust, the training was

aimed to enable the mentors to further develop their own teaching skills, become 'master trainers' and continue to build their capacity in the efforts to cascade their learning and support school teachers in different parts of Cuba.

Our presence in **Pedagogia 2021** was especially significant for the intervention of our CEO Kate Ewart-Biggs who highlighted the great work done by our office in its role as supporters of education in Cuba mainly in terms of English Language training opportunities for teachers and students along the island working in partnership with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education.

In addition, we presented a paper in a collaboration Mined-British Council about the teaching of English in General Education and the **Agenda 2030** in which some of the results and impact of our project Mentors in Action were shared, evidencing the relevance of our current ELES program and the high recognition that it receives from our local partners.

We have other activities in progress as part of our English portfolio like **PRELIM's workshops** with APC ELI and **Hornby Trust's actions** with ALC GELI. More information on this regard will be shared on our next issue. We are also working on a series of video capsules and a dossier referring **our work in Cuba** during last years and particularly during pandemic times, so you'll have the chance to know better what has been done so far.

From now on our newsletter will reach you every other month so we will meet again in **May!** A big electronic hug then to the teachers who always find the best way to continue educating despite the challenges we face.

Until then, stay safe! 😊

Yaillet Landrove, Arts and English Manager

[British Council Cuba](#)

Watch the intervention of Kate Ewart-Biggs

Highlights

Young professor Victor M. Alonso from Martha Abreu University in Villa Clara comments on the opportunity of attended **BBELT International Conference**:

"BBELT helped me not only to develop some skills as an English Language teacher, but also to reinforce some other areas and topics as part of my **professional development** like intercultural issues, teaching students with special needs, teaching young learners and practical ideas to teach English in the current Covid-19 context. From my point of view, this is one of the **most rewarding experiences** I've ever had in my professional path.

Highlights

As part of **Mentors in Action** group, Maite Heredia López, English language teacher at "Enrique José Varona" University of Pedagogical Sciences, shares its opinion on MIA workshop along 6 weeks:

"It's relevant to mention that the MIA course provided us with a lot of **updating materials and perspectives** from teachers out of our educative context. Moreover, the course also allowed us to reflect in the kind of teachers we are and provided us with useful tools to improve our professional teaching performance.

"It was a challenge and a great experience. We could share ideas with teacher, teacher trainers and experts from different countries in a **virtual environment** and I'm going to share the knowledge learned with my co-workers in methodological sessions and meetings. Besides, I will cascade some of the topics with teachers from different educational levels as part of postgraduate courses and with my colleagues from Mentors in Action project".

"After having the MIA course, I find myself **more confident** when not only teaching the English language but also mentoring my colleagues and other teachers. I'm really eager to continue cascading what we've learned, practice and discuss along these last months".

Partners & friends

Our colleague, professor Yasmany Camacho, APC-ELI Digital and Marketing Officer, shares his experience on the **2nd National webinar** on Creativity in Foreign Language Teaching (held from February 25 to 27):

"The topic of **Creativity in ELT** has become of special interest for Cuban teachers on the current conditions. I think that this 2nd Webinar, held this time by means of the Telegram Voice Chat platform, comes to be the result of creativity put into practice for the better of the ELT Community in our country.

"Thanks to APC-ELI and the Office of the British Council in Havana, teachers from all provinces of our country have had the opportunity to **keep growing professionally**. In spite of the conditions of "isolation" the pandemic has imposed, we have felt very close and more than ever before we have enjoyed making use of the **new technologies** to learn from each-other and also from foreign teachers who have kindly accepted sharing their knowledge with us".

What's new?

The British Council is working with partners across the UK and worldwide to support the success and legacy of **COP26**, creating opportunities for climate cooperation, dialogue and action.

Visit our **climate change hub** to access classroom materials for your class. Try our challenges and practical experiments, and help your students create a pollution-catcher.

Try our climate
change resources

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<https://caribbean.britishcouncil.org/es/boletines-electronicos>

We can also stay connected through our new Facebook page for British Council in Cuba:

<http://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilCuba>

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