



Five films showcasing our 2026 Festival of Languages



Five filmed case studies were produced for the 2026 Festival evaluation and the agreement with North East Mayoral Strategic Authority.

There is a Festival Highlights film and films profiling different activities, with a focus on the inspiration that comes from being creative with languages and exploring diverse cultures. They showcase the aims and impact of the Festival, children and young people's engagement, teacher feedback.

These films will be shared widely, included in our evaluation and used for future promotion and awareness-raising for the North East's flagship Festival - the biggest in the UK, with

115,246 children and young people taking part between 6th January and 31st March.

B7 videographers worked with the Festival Coordinator, Communications Lead and Newcastle City Council Grant Manager to identify the case study subjects and liaise with delivery partners to arrange filming.

Festival Interns were invited to be involved for work experience. Films were reviewed and approved by the Festival Coordinator.

All videos are available on the Festival's vimeo channel, shared with the North East CA and were publicised through Festival channels.

Film links are provided below and summaries of each film overleaf:

- [Highlights of the 2026 Festival](#)
- [Munich Supercrew Concert and Workshop](#)
- [Asian Creative Journeys \(GemArts\)](#)
- [Multilingual Poetry Slam](#)
- [Bangla Day in Sunderland](#)

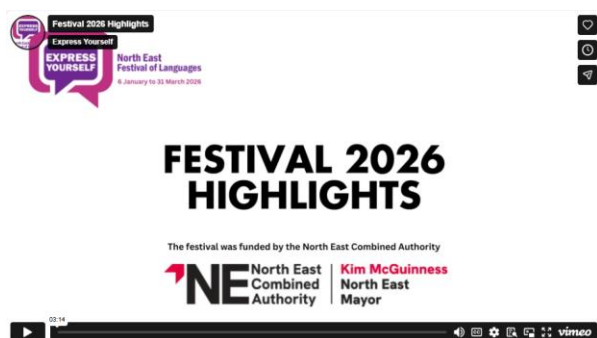
There is also a short film produced for social media of [St Teresa's Primary School learning the Festival Song, Love is the Only River](#), in Spanish, which was used to promote engagement.

2025 Festival Films: These five case study films from the 2025 Festival, complement the 2026 films and are all accessible [from this article](#) and from these vimeo links:

[Festival of Languages Evolution and Impact](#), [Futbol Lingo Languages and Careers in Football workshops](#), [Spanish Apprentice Year 10 Tourism Challenge at Bishop Auckland](#), [Welcome to the Arab World Day](#), [Creative Multilingual Projects for North East Schools](#)

Highlights of the 2026 Festival - Film

6th January to 31st March 2026



Festival website article: [Watch our short films showing the impact of this year's Festival of Languages](#)

This film includes some of the highlights from this year's Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages.

The film includes comments from teachers and children and young people who have taken part, as well as organisations who provided activities or supported the Festival - including the Festival Song (Love is the Only River), the Munich Supercrew workshop and concert, Asian Creative Journeys workshops in school and the Multilingual Poetry Slam.

Festival participation 2026



In 2026, 115,246 3-18 year olds participated in Festival activities from 6th January to 31st March. There were 1,050 registrations for activities from 443 schools and an estimated 1,368 teachers engaging their pupils in activities.

There were 50 Festival partners delivering activities free of charge and a programme of in-person and online events, competitions, classroom activities and creative multilingual projects.

Visit the [Festival news](#) to read articles from the rest of the Festival, showing the breadth of activities and the impact of the Festival and what taking part means to pupils, teachers and partners.

Munich Supercrew workshop/concert Film

20th January at Great Park Academy, Newcastle



Festival website article: [Munich Supercrew rock the North East!](#)

Festival event page: [Munich Supercrew](#)

This film highlights The Munich Supercrew concert and workshop delivered on 20th January 2026 to 235 pupils from five NE schools, as part of the 2026 Festival. Bringing their unique brand of teaching German through music, they inspired, engaged and wowed the young people attending their workshop and concert.

Taking part in the workshop and concert were Great Park Academy (hosts) and Gosforth Academy (Newcastle), Yarm School (Stockton), Normanby Outwood Academy (Middlesbrough) and Ponteland High School (Northumberland).

Young people had a warm up workshop with the band, helping them learn the rhythms and words to the great songs that were then performed in an interactive, high energy concert with the Munich Supercrew. All the pupils and teachers received t-shirts and had lots of fun singing and dancing along with the music – and learned how to rap in German!

After the event, all participating teachers are invited to sign up for a virtual professional development workshop led by a certified DaF (German as a Foreign Language) trainer:

- Focus: Using music, beatboxing, dance, and drawing to creatively teach phonetics, grammar, and vocabulary
- Open to all teachers involved in the event

The event was funded and supported by Goethe Institut UK as part of a UK tour and to celebrate German Week, German language and culture.

The Festival Coordinator, Sarah Edgar and Georgina Biddle and Gareth Miller (Newcastle Music Service) supported the delivery of the event with the hosts, Great Park Academy in Newcastle.

Asian Creative Journeys Film

Flexible bookings February and March 2026



Festival website article: [Children enjoy Kathputli puppet making workshop with GemArts](#)

Festival event page: [Asian Creative Journeys: Discovering India & China through arts and culture](#)

This film follows one in-school Asian Creative Journeys workshop at St Cuthbert's Primary School Kenton in Newcastle. Children learned about traditional Indian culture by making traditional Kathputli puppets from Rajasthan with artist Lily Daniels from GemArts.

Participants and those supporting delivery talk about the importance of these types of activities for children and young people and the school's involvement in other Festival events and competitions.

In total, 720 pupils from 9 primary and 2 secondary schools from Gateshead, North Tyneside, Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle and Middlesbrough benefitted from in-school Asian Creative Journeys workshops delivered by GemArts artists between February-March 2026.

Schools chose from a choice of South Asian and Chinese arts and culture workshops delivered in school over a half or full day and adapted for different age ranges. They could select:

- Bollywood and Indian Classical dance
- Indian Visual Arts e.g. Rangoli, Indian Miniature painting, Henna Designs, Gond Art, Lantern Making
- Celebrate Holi – the Indian festival of Spring, Colour and new life
- Chinese Arts e.g. origami, kite making, papercutting puppets, small or large dragon making, lantern making, and calligraphy.
- Celebrating Chinese New Year

This activity was commissioned by the Festival to ensure representation of South Asian communities and culture within the programme and the activity was funded by the grant from the North East Combined Authority.



Multilingual Poetry Slam (KS3-5) Film

27th March 2026, Newcastle



Festival website article: [Young people bring languages to life in multilingual poetry slam at Newcastle Civic Centre](#)

Festival event page: [Multilingual Poetry Slam](#)

This film documents a full day event at Newcastle Civic Centre involving a team of international poets. Young people from across the North East took to the stage for a lively, high-energy Multilingual Poetry Slam as part of the Festival. Over 100 pupils (aged 11-18) participated from Great Park Academy and Sacred Heart Catholic High School in Newcastle, Chantry Middle School in Morpeth and Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy in Stockton-on Tees.

Led by acclaimed poet Michaël Vidon and an international team of professional spoken word artists (Steve Larkin, Elida Silvey and Zohab Zee Khan), pupils heard the international poets perform poems in different languages including a poem of sounds on a didgeridoo.

Designed to make language learning accessible, inclusive, and fun, young people took part in a series of poetry workshops with a designated poet, supported by staff and students from Durham University's School of Modern Languages. Pupils collaborated across schools, languages, backgrounds and age groups, building their confidence to speak in public and express their ideas creatively.

The young people taking part created and performed original poetry in multiple languages, including English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic and other home languages spoken by the students. It enabled them to express themselves in an engaging and interactive environment while encouraging creativity, collaboration and confidence. They performed their poems in groups on stage in the afternoon in front of a panel of judges including professional poets, an EU official and children from the audience.

The event was funded by the European Union, whose support made it possible to provide students with a unique opportunity to explore language skills beyond the classroom setting. Prizes were awarded, provided by Institut français and Maison des Langues. Newcastle City Council staff and Festival lead Sarah Edgar supported the hosting of the event.

Bangla Day in Sunderland Film

25th March 2026, Sunderland



Festival website article: [Pupils enjoy a warm welcome and a carousel of activities at Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre](#)

Festival event page: [Bangla Day Sunderland](#)

This film documents the Bangla Day event in Sunderland. Around 100 pupils from Richard Avenue Primary School (Sunderland) and Pelton Community Primary School (County Durham) were welcomed to Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre (SBIC) for a festive event to celebrate the richness of Bangladeshi culture, heritage, traditions and language.

SBIC Board Directors and community members introduced themselves to the children. Amir Ali, SBIC's Partnership and Engagement Officer, gave an entertaining introduction to the event and the stimulating carousel of activities provided for children to explore and celebrate Bangladeshi culture and gain an understanding of the local Bangladeshi community.

As well as being an opportunity to share and celebrate Bengali culture, heritage, language and traditions, the event was designed to promote togetherness, linguistic and cultural diversity, multilingualism and cultural competence.

Children were split into groups and took part in a range of cultural and interactive experiences, including:

- learning about the Bangla language and its importance
- dressing up in traditional clothing and jewellery try traditional perfumes
- playing a range of traditional games from Bangladesh
- learning how to cook some traditional savoury items
- talking to Bangladeshi community representatives and Centre staff
- exploring the history of Bangladeshi people living in the UK
- trying some cultural sweets – with a goody bag for each child to take away

The event was supported by a £300 contribution to SBIC from the North East Combined Authority Festival grant, as a means of increasing the South East Asian elements of the Festival.



North East Festival of Languages

6 January to 31 March 2026



The Festival is part-funded by the North East Mayoral Strategic Authority



Kim McGuinness
**North East
Mayor**