Gonville & Caius
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Linguistics Challenge 2018

The term 'language' can refer to any coherent systematic communication system. Most of the time we encounter language that is spoken or expressed in writing; but language may also be expressed using other mediums—examples would include sign language and Braille. This year the Caius Linguistics Challenge will be to develop a communication system using Lego bricks (or similar) where the meaning of the language will be encoded in how the bricks are connected together.

Your language should be expressive enough to allow people to successfully navigate from A to B in this map.

Some things you will need to think about are (not limited to):
- how to express the places on the map;
- how to differentiate between similar places;
- how to express locations ('on the right', 'next to');
- how to express sequences of events.

Take inspiration from all the typology of languages in the world (i.e. how languages vary in their structure to represent aspects such as plurals); you might also gain inspiration from the orthography of different languages. Be as creative as you like exploiting colour and 3-dimensionality. Your competition entry should include an organised description of how your communication system works and may include some images with accompanying explanation of meaning. You can use a free online brick building tool instead of using real bricks if you would like. Make sure to let us know when you have been inspired by another language and discuss any problems you think there might be in expanding the range of things you can communicate.

You may work alone or in teams of two and entries must be no longer than 6 A4 sides. Should you submit an entry as a pair, the prize will be split between you as well as with your school.

Please submit your entry/report in electronic form (as a PDF) to schoolsprizes@cai.cam.ac.uk. Entries should arrive by the deadline of **Tuesday 29th May 2018**.
Please do not put your name or your school's name on your entry/report, but instead complete a cover sheet (Word) (PDF). This completed coversheet **must** be sent with your submission.

- Find the map here