

10th June 2019

To: Parents of Pupils in Year 8



Dear Parents

Modern Foreign Languages and XME Provision for Year 9: September 2019

There has been a nationwide decline in the take up of modern foreign languages for GCSE which has come about with the revision of GCSE specifications. The changes include moving away from coursework, increased subject content and an increased academic rigour which, when added together, necessitates increased teaching time to ensure successful delivery of the subjects.

We are therefore asking current Year 8 pupils to choose between their two languages for the start of Year 9. This is so that double the amount of lessons can be allocated to the one language in sound preparation for GCSE work commencing the following year. The language of choice will be allocated four teaching periods per week.

These changes do not affect pupils who have already opted out of both MFL subjects and who study extra Maths and English instead; this will continue. Those who currently study one language and XME however will need to choose between four periods of the language or XME only.

It should be borne in mind that the decisions the children make this year will affect their GCSE choices. If they do not opt for a language option for Year 9, they will not be able to make that choice at GCSE, and instead continue with their XME studies. Pupils are welcome however to study a language in Year 9 and opt for XME in Year 10 as part of the normal options process.

If you would like to discuss these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Alternatively, if you would like more information on your son/daughter's academic potential in either of the two language subjects, please contact Miss Nisan, their current French and Spanish teacher.

Mrs Twomey, our GCSE French Teacher, is retiring at the end of this academic year and we have appointed a very well qualified and experienced teacher to replace her, Mrs Brimblecombe.

Please complete the proforma attached to confirm your intentions regarding the above, which will enable us to make the required timetable changes. Please complete and return this form to your child's Form Teacher by Friday 21st June.

Yours sincerely



Mrs P Hutley
Headmistress



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Child's Name: _____

Form: _____

I can confirm that I understand the changes to MFL and XME that are going to commence in September 2019.

I would like my son/daughter to study (*please tick one option*):

French

Spanish

XME

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to your child's Form Teacher by Friday 21st June 2019