20th May 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may know it had been our intention from this September to make some changes to the way in which we organise Modern Foreign Languages in Year 8. We had planned that all students, as they neared the end of Year 7 would select their 'preferred language' from a choice of French and German, and then this would be the one that they would study through Years 8 and 9. By specialising in one foreign language we felt that this would help students to lay much stronger foundations in that subject should they then choose to study it at GCSE. However, after careful consideration we have decided to delay the implementation of this plan.

What has become clear as students have studied both French and German in Year 7 is that many of them are really enjoying studying both languages and don't yet want to commit to just doing one for the rest of Key Stage 3. We have also had feedback from many parents asking if their children might be able to continue studying both languages, at least until it is clearer which one they are likely to be most successful with. We have therefore decided that students will continue to study both French and German next year, and then at the end of Year 8 we will ask students and parents to decide which language they would like to focus on through Year 9.

Please be assured that we do not think that any students will be disadvantaged by delaying the point at which they start to focus on a single language. In fact, we think that most students will be much better placed to make an informed decision about their preferred language when they have had a bit more experience of each one. This should ensure that students retain their enjoyment of the subject and maintain their high levels of engagement so that they continue to make excellent progress and are in a strong position to study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at school.

Yours sincerely

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