



The Chantry School



EXCELLENCE IN ALL | EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

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Headteacher: Andrew Dickenson BSc PhD

Company No: 07657852

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Dear Parents/Carer

Since the start of the academic year, Year 7 pupils have been taught two languages (French and German), in mixed ability groups, over five lessons per fortnight. However, as part of our constant reviewing of the curriculum provision to determine what is the best model for languages, we think it would be more appropriate for our pupils to concentrate on just one language as they move into Year 8.

There are several reasons for this. For example, the new GCSE (Grades 9 - 1) is more content driven than its predecessor which means that pupils have a great deal of grammar and vocabulary to learn, as well as now practising the new skill of translation and appreciating literary texts. Therefore, we feel that in order to build our pupils' confidence, expertise, experience and enable our pupils to master the skills they need to be able to achieve good grades at GCSE, it is better for them to concentrate on one language from Year 8. This will enable much more "layering" of both the vocabulary and grammar and less "dilution" between studying two languages. A lesser contributing factor is that we know, from experience, we have very few pupils who opt to continue with both French and German at GCSE.

As a consequence, all pupils will concentrate on just one language for all of their five language lessons over the two-week timetable. This gives a very solid language base as the pupils move into Year 9 and beyond should they choose to study for a GCSE language. As a school, we advise to choose a language at GCSE if they are considering further education to a degree standard.

Please discuss this with your child and indicate below which language they would prefer. We will endeavour to fit this into the timetable, but please be aware that pupil choices will determine numbers.

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Heather Morgan
Head of Languages

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FAO Language teacher (please return by Friday 7th June 2019)

Name of Pupil _____ Form _____

Preferred Language Choice: German or French

Signed _____ Parent/Carer

Date _____