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Dear Parent/ Carer,

Re: Double Languages at GCSE

As a student of French and German in year 9, your son is in the privileged position to be able to study two languages next year for GCSE. **The languages combinations on offer are: *German and French, German and Mandarin or French and Mandarin.*** If your child is interested in studying Mandarin, this runs on a Wednesday after school every week, and the GCSE can be started straightaway in year 9, so do encourage him to start attending.

Having discussed the opportunity to become a double linguist with many of you during the consultation evening, on behalf of the MFL department I would like to reiterate some of the key benefits of opting to study two languages at GCSE.

- One of the two languages will be studied once a week after school, meaning that your son would finish Key Stage 4 with an additional GCSE.
- Studying for a GCSE outside of the timetabled curriculum requires hard work and dedication, which would make future college/ university/ job applications stand out from the crowd; particularly as the study of foreign languages is considered to be very prestigious.
- As part of our commitment to outdoor learning, in year 10 we offer the opportunities for all pupils to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, for which pupils have to demonstrate that they have learned a new skill. A language fits the criteria for this skill, but can only be included in the award if it is studied outside of the main curriculum time.
- According to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) Skills Survey 2015, employers noted shortages in areas such as problem solving, customer relations and persuading and influencing, which are skills associated with the study of languages.
- The study of foreign languages offers many opportunities for personal growth, increased confidence, resilience, and open-mindedness, which although not as easily quantifiable, are extremely significant as pupils prepare to move into the world as global citizens.

In light of this information, I hope that your son will consider becoming a double linguist as they move into Key Stage 4. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J. Meechan

Head of Modern Foreign Languages

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