

Dear Parent/Carer

June 2020

I am writing to inform you of a decision that Year 7 students will be asked to make about their language studies over the coming week.

Like other core subjects, modern foreign languages form an important and central part of our curriculum at Kingsmead. As international work and travel become increasingly common, the ability to communicate in a foreign language is a critical and necessary skill. All students will therefore continue to study at least one language until they leave Kingsmead at the end of Year 11.

Due to the changes the government has made to the examination of GCSEs in recent years with the removal of controlled assessment and all examinations taking place at the end of Year 11, we feel students will be more successful if more time is spent focusing on one language from Year 8.

This year students in Year 7 have studied at least two languages from either French, German and Spanish in school and are in the process of studying a third language remotely. Over the next few days students will be set a task on Firefly by their language teacher asking for their preference from French, German or Spanish. We will do our very best to accommodate the first choice of language and in previous years the majority of students are able to study their first choice. However, this **cannot** be guaranteed due to student numbers in a class or availability of specialist teachers qualified to teach that language. This means a second choice will also be required. Students that are **not** able to study their first choice will be notified before the summer holidays in July.

If there is a particular reason for a choice of language, for example, lived in France for 2 years, please comment on the Firefly task and if possible, we will take this into consideration when assigning students to groups.

I would also like to add that keen linguists can obtain qualifications in two foreign languages at Kingsmead by opting to study a second foreign language as part of the options process in Year 8. They will start their studies in the second language at the beginning of Year 9. Students with two language qualifications are highly sought after and are a rarity in the current labour market.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's languages teacher if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Kim Davies - Head of Modern Foreign Languages

CARE

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

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