

15th June 2018

To: Parents of Pupils for Year 7



Dear Parents,

Changes to Modern Languages Provision for Year 7: September 2018

We are looking at changing the way we deliver modern foreign languages at Hollygirt, to ensure that children are better prepared for the new style of GCSE, which they will face in 5 years' time.

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 the moving away from coursework, increased subject content and an increased academic rigour, which add together to necessitate more teaching time for the subject.

For Year 7 we are proposing that we allocate 4 lessons to one language, to offer a solid foundation for language acquisition and to avoid the confusion which can occur if two languages are taught from the beginning simultaneously. We believe the language which is the easiest to acquire is **Spanish** and this will be our only offering to Year 7 for September 2018.

In the following year as the children enter Year 8, we will offer the opportunity for the children to take French additionally, with a view to having a choice in Year 9 of French or Spanish leading to GCSE.

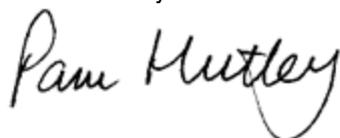
We traditionally offer additional Maths and English support as an alternative to MFL, as it is usual for children who struggle with basic skills, to really find language learning challenging. We are starting a new pathway this year. At some time, immediately or by discussion later in the term/year, we would like to run one group of 'accelerated' beginner Spanish (4 lessons a week), a second smaller group called Language Awareness (2 lessons) with English and Maths (XME) small group support (2 lessons). The language awareness course is likely to be in French and Spanish and will focus on oral skills suitable for holidays or business. We would like to continue this model throughout the 5 years, so that the children have an oral competency, if not a qualification, potentially in several languages. We will be seeking alternative level courses, which suit this style of skills learning.

In this way, we aspire to meeting the needs of the pupils requiring additional support with key skills, without compromising on all modern foreign language acquisition, and in maximising the potential for others to reach the level of language reading, writing, speaking and listening which will enable them to access the GCSE examination much later on.

Please indicate on the pro-forma below your initial response to this proposal. The groups will be timetabled consecutively to allow for movement between them.

I will be available to discuss this with parents at the Parents/Pupils information meeting on 5th July or by private appointment.

Yours sincerely



Mrs P Hutley
Headmistress



Year 7 Modern Foreign Languages

Child's Name: _____

Form: _____

I can confirm that I have read and understand the changes that are going to take place for Year 7 the next academic year.

I would like my son/daughter to study:

(Please tick the option you would like):

- 'Accelerated' beginner Spanish (4 lessons a week)
- French and Spanish Language Awareness with Extra Maths and English (lessons of Language and one each of Maths and English)
- I am currently unsure which option will best suit by son/daughter and am happy to be guided by the teaching staff and with further discussion later in the Autumn term.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to Lucy Wilkins on or before New Parents/Pupils Day (5th July)