

Re: Modern Foreign Language preferences

Dear Year 6 Parents and Guardians,

I am writing in order to give you some further information about our curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages, and to ask you to indicate your preference for the languages your son/ward will study from September.

The languages that we offer are French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. All of our students study two languages throughout Year 7 and Year 8. At this point, they will choose one of these two languages to follow through Year 9 with the expectation that this will be continued to GCSE level in Years 10 and 11. It is possible for students who have demonstrated a particular aptitude for languages to continue both languages in Year 9 and indeed through to GCSE. All four languages are taught by specialist teachers at all levels, with access to native speakers for support with conversation, and all are available as options for A level study in our Sixth Form.

At the Langton, we strongly believe in the importance and value of each of the four languages that we offer, as tools for communication in a globalised world, as valuable skills for future employment, and as avenues to explore other cultures. From this point of view, we see each of the four languages as being of great value, and thus the choice of which to study is one that we offer to individual parents and students to make based on your own preferences and priorities. Note that no previous knowledge of any language is presumed, although if some students are already familiar with the language this is used for the benefit of the group as a whole.

Please would you indicate your preference for your son's/ward's two languages to be studied in Year 7 and 8. One of the two must be French or Spanish, so the permissible combinations are:

French and German
French and Mandarin
French and Spanish
Spanish and German
Spanish and Mandarin

While we hope to be able to accommodate all of your preferred combinations, we ask that you indicate three combinations in preference order in the event that we are not able to do so.

Please will you email Mrs Sheppard (Head of Year 7) at asheppard@thelangton.kent.sch.uk with your stated preferences by Friday 21 June. If we have not heard from you by this deadline, we will make the assignment for you. It will not be possible to make any changes to language choices after this date.

For those of you who have older children at the school, please note that the above arrangements are slightly different to those of previous years, and in particular that choice of languages will no longer be linked to membership of our houses as it has been in the past.

Yours faithfully,

J.Eagle (Director of Studies)