



10 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I am writing this letter to you to explain some exciting changes to our MFL curriculum.

Learning a language promotes healthy development and its many cognitive and social benefits will last a lifetime. Here are some of the reasons how learning a language gives students a significant advantage, and how you can help, whether or not you know another language.

Research shows that learning a second (or third!) language boosts problem-solving, critical-thinking, and listening skills, in addition to improving memory, concentration, and the ability to multitask. Children proficient in other languages also show signs of enhanced creativity and mental flexibility.

Scientific evidence also shows that learning another foreign language boosts academic achievement. The cognitive benefits of learning a language have a direct impact on a child's academic achievement. Compared to those without additional languages, children who are able to communicate in different languages have improved reading, writing, and maths skills, and they generally score higher on standardised tests such as GCSE and A-Level. Plus, there is increasingly more evidence that employers are looking for competence in languages in today's globalised world.

In addition to this, children who are exposed to other languages display more positive attitudes to the cultures associated with those languages. The experience of learning a language introduces them to the world in ways they might otherwise have not experienced.

After Easter, Year 7 students will start a new part of their language learning journey, by starting to learn French again. Having taken into consideration the impact on learning caused by both last year's and this year's national lockdown, we feel that it is important to build on the foundations that students have already built in French in Year 6 and during their time at primary school. French is a world language, with more than 300 million people speaking French on the five continents. It is a key language on the international job market and in international relations. French is also the co-official language of the Olympic games!

During the summer term, students will also be taking part in a language-based challenge – International Day. During this day, we will be offering students the opportunity to explore different languages and cultures and then create a learning resource linked to this activity. There will be a prize for the best resource in each year group.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this curriculum development. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Stanley
Lead Teacher of MFL