



Nunthorpe
Academy

26 February 2021

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

Re: Modern Foreign Languages – Year 9 Options

At the moment in Languages, we teach French and German up to Year 9. In the Year 9 Options, most students opt to either continue with the language that they have been studying for three years, or they choose to do Spanish in two years at KS4. Completing this accelerated Spanish GCSE course from scratch in two years is very intense and demanding and it is becoming clear that whilst manageable for some students, due to the demands of the new GCSE course, as well as demands on the timetable at KS4, it is becoming increasingly difficult for some students and is not allowing them to achieve their potential.

In light of this, for the current Year 8, we will be changing the system slightly. From Year 9, those students who are in the top set in each quarter year group (9Z1, 9Z4, 9Q1 and 9Q4), will study one period of their current language, either French or German, and one period of Spanish, to give them an introduction to the language and to cover some of the basics from an earlier start point. These students will then have the option to choose between their current language and/or Spanish in the Year 9 Options. Unfortunately, students who are not in one of these sets in Year 9, will not be able to choose Spanish as an option, as they will not have had the teaching during Year 9. They will, however, be able to continue with either French or German at GCSE.

Therefore, if your child is thinking about studying Spanish at GCSE, they must ensure that they are working to the best of their ability this year, to ensure that they can be moved into one of the above sets ready for Year 9. Please can you discuss this with your child and explain that in order to get into one of the sets mentioned, they must be working hard in lessons, volunteering answers in both English and the target language, completing all homework and learning vocabulary, to demonstrate that they have the skills to learn another language, as well as their current language.

A letter will be sent out to parents/carers to inform them of whether their child has been placed into one of the above sets for Year 9.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions. All enquiries should be sent to Allison Macaulay amacaulay@nunthorpe.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Allison Macaulay

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