



2nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Preference of language for study from the beginning of Year 8

I write with regard to the selection of the foreign language that your son or daughter will continue to study from the start of Year 8. As you will be aware all students in Year 7 have been taught French and German this year, with the normal pattern of one term of each followed by this letter at Easter having been upset by the national lockdown. As a result, I write now to ensure that our students retain the opportunity to have an informed input into choosing their language for further study, with new groups to be formed at the start of Year 8.

Although there are many limitations to our ability to offer student choice in language study we would like to offer you the opportunity to express a preference. Please now discuss with your son or daughter whether they would like to continue with French or German and the reasons for their choice, and should they have a **strong preference**, please reply to me by Email (mleuarduzzi@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk) before the deadline of **6pm on Monday 12th July 2021**. If they have no strong preference and you are happy for us to make the decision that we feel is in their best interest, there is no need to reply. Replies after the deadline will not be able to be considered.

Please be aware that we are constrained by the timetable and staffing, and the need to balance classes, which means that we are limited in our ability to grant students their preference, perhaps even more so this year than is usually the case. As a result, we are unable to guarantee that any student will be assigned their preferred language and reserve the right to place students where we choose, based on our judgement and requirements. We can only promise that we will do all we can to comply with students' wishes. Should you have a particularly strong preference please include the reasons in your reply, and we will do our best to accommodate this. If we do not receive a reply by the date above, we will assume that you have no strong preference and will assign them to an appropriate group. Please also be aware that groups will be organised immediately after this deadline and that once students have been allocated to a class on our return to school in September it will not be possible to re-assign them.

I appreciate that this can be a difficult choice, especially this year when some learning has taken place remotely and school has been somewhat different to normal, but please be assured that this is not a decision that should cause too much concern. The two languages on offer are the two most in demand in the world of employment and are therefore both very useful (and we hope enjoyable!) to learn. Students will reach the same academic level by GCSE whichever language they learn, irrespective of prior learning at St Edward's, and GCSE results in our school are equally strong in both languages, with progress made to GCSE over the past 4 years placing us comfortably within the top 15% of schools nationally for both French and German. Unfortunately, despite some students' hopes, there is no "easy" option! Teachers in the department all teach both languages.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to write to me at mleuarduzzi@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. M Lenarduzzi
MFL Subject Leader