

18 November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to you with information about an exciting development in the Modern Languages curriculum at John Smeaton Academy.

The GORSE Academies Trust places great importance on the value of learning languages; there is no doubt that students who study languages to GCSE level give themselves a 'stand out' point of reference with employers and are highly attractive candidates for Post-16 education and employment. This is why all students at John Smeaton Academy are required to study a language at GCSE and why from this year, we are extending our curriculum offer to include French along with Spanish.

In the Spring term, your son / daughter will be making their GCSE option choices where they will be able to choose French, Spanish or both of these languages. To ensure that your son / daughter is able to make an informed choice about which language they want to study, it is important for them to experience learning both languages. For this reason, from 29 November all Year 8 students currently studying Spanish will have the opportunity to learn French in their MFL lessons.

Having studied both languages, your son / daughter will be able to take French, Spanish or both languages when they select their GCSE options. Once their choices have been confirmed, students will go on to study the language or languages they have chosen for GCSE in the summer term. Our 3-year KS4 curriculum model then affords us ample time to complete the GCSE course.

We hope that you are as pleased as we are to be able to offer your son / daughter a wider choice of languages at John Smeaton Academy and we sincerely hope that they enjoy their new language learning experiences this year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Griffiths
Principal