



Alderman Peel High School

Alderman Peel High School
Market Lane, Wells next the Sea
Norfolk, NR23 1RB

www.wensumtrust.org.uk/aldermanpeel

01328 710 476

office@aldermanpeel.norfolk.sch.uk

October 2020

Re: Year 9 Languages Curriculum

Dear Parent/Carer

Throughout Year 7 and 8, as well as the start of Year 9, all students have followed a mixed curriculum of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) in both French and Spanish. So far this year, this has involved two hours per fortnight of French and two hours per fortnight of Spanish.

Prior to the start of term, we communicated our medium-term plan for all students in Year 9 to make a choice between continuing their education in Modern Foreign Languages through either French or Spanish after October half-term. This would then enable students to receive four hours of French or Spanish and enable them to make better progress and better prepare them for GCSE-level study in Year 10 and 11.

Later this year, we will also guide students through the Year 9 preferences process (formerly known as 'options'). During this process, students will make more long-term decisions about which subjects they would prefer to study towards GCSE and equivalent qualifications.

While studying a language beyond Year 9 is not currently compulsory at APHS, it is hoped that a large proportion of the year group will do so and we have seen a consistent rise in the number of students doing so over recent years. Studying a language at GCSE provides a wealth of opportunities in the job market, as well as forming the pathway towards facilitating subjects at A-level and onto higher education. Studying a Modern Foreign Language also improves grammatical awareness and leads to improved performance in English Language GCSE scores.

Subject teachers have started to discuss the choices between French and Spanish in their lessons to offer advice and guidance. In a perfect system, we would have an even number of students choosing to do French and Spanish but we realise that this is unlikely to happen in a perfect way. However, we do need to maintain certain group sizes and it is therefore important that we seek student preferences in which pathway they would like to take. Ultimately there may have to be compromises in this, so it is important we understand student's views.

Making these choices now will not impact on later GCSE options choices as both French and Spanish will eventually be placed in the same option block. This will be explained in more detail after Christmas.

Students have been asked to submit their languages preference via a Google Form by Thursday 15th October at 3pm. Please take the time to discuss their choice with them and support them in this decision.

Yours sincerely

Ms F Lagrange

Director of Learning – MFL and Humanities

We are part of...

WENSUMTRUST

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES