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Our Ref: SYA/MSA

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Dear Parent or Carer

As your child embarks on the important process of choosing their GCSE courses, we wanted to write to share some important information with you about GCSE Languages. During Years 7, 8 and 9 students have studied French and/or Spanish. Both Spanish and French are offered at GCSE.

Languages appeal to a variety of students who wish to open doors to future pathways for careers and life experiences and it is enjoyed by those wishing to broaden their Languages experience. In both French and Spanish, students at Looe historically attain very good results with some of our work being exemplar material for the exam board EdExcel.

You will have noticed that the format of your child's report looks different for languages than other subjects. We are trialling a new way of reporting that is more in line with other schools where we only give an overall % mark of their most recent assessment. The % will indicate how well they are performing currently in class. In the 2022 GCSE series language students needed to achieve approximately 70% in a foundation paper to achieve a Grade 5. Students regularly do a listening, reading, and written assessment, and their MFL teachers give them feedback and steps to improve.

Being able to speak another language is a practical and demonstrable skill which allows the learner to get more out of life, both personally and professionally, and will develop both social skills and confidence as a communicator. Students attaining GCSE pass grades in the Ebacc suite of subjects are recognised by universities and employers as being aspirational and having high academic potential. Many employers value their employees studying Languages to GCSE level and beyond. They provide applicants with an edge over their competitors, developing logical thinking as well as important skills in listening and communicating. The best universities are increasingly interested in students having qualifications in Languages. Universities also provide a broad and exciting range of opportunities for students to continue their study of Languages at undergraduate degree level, either alone or alongside another non-Language subjects.

We are passionate about as many students as possible choosing a GCSE Language, as long as it is the right decision for them. To help your child make an informed choice, please spend some time looking at the websites that can be found at the following links. In addition to these links, you should read the Languages information contained in the Key Stage 4 Options Booklet that will soon be circulated to Year 9 parents:

- <https://www.creativeml.ox.ac.uk/careers/> - you will find some excellent videos from professionals who have pursued a broad and varied range of careers explaining why Languages study has been so important to them.

- <http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/ks3/gcse/> - this website is very student-friendly as it is written by A Level and undergraduate Languages students. It also contains valuable information for parents.
- <https://www.all-languages.org.uk/research-practice/why-study-languages/making-the-case-resources/>
- <https://www.schoolguide.co.uk/blog/8-reasons-to-choose-a-language-at-gcse-and-a-level/> - this website provides a very 'punchy' summary of the reasons why young people should consider studying a GCSE Language.

We do hope that the information contained in this letter is helpful and informative. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child taking GCSE Spanish or French, please make an appointment for Languages for parents' evening and feel free to contact me for any further support or guidance.

Yours sincerely

*Kathleen Jones*

**Kathleen Jones**  
**Leader of Learning for Modern Foreign Languages**