



Queen Mary's Grammar School  
Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

April 2017

To the parents of Y7 pupils

**Year 8 Modern Foreign Languages 2017-18**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

When your son moves into Year 8 in September, there will be some minor changes in his curriculum. This will include the teaching of separate Sciences, which will mean slight changes in the allocation of time to other subjects. There is also (as outlined below) an option to make with regards to his modern foreign language.

Over the past few years, we have changed our policy towards modern foreign languages: moving away from a system where all students took on a second European language in year 8/9, to one where only the language started in year 7 was followed. In this model, Mandarin has been offered as an additional option in Years 8 and 9 to students interested in carrying on the language through to GCSE. Last year, as part of our commitment to the *Confucius Classroom* and *Mandarin Excellence Programmes*, we extended the provision so that all students began Mandarin in Year 7 alongside their European language.

We have evaluated our approach and have decided that the demands of the *Mandarin Excellence Programme* are such that we need to make curriculum provision for these lessons. We also feel that, with the demands of the new reformed GCSEs, we need to make more time at Key Stage 3 for students to focus on one core language.

We are therefore asking the students to make a choice. For their Core Language, they can either:

1. Continue with their European language (French or Spanish), with an aim to completing their GCSE at the end of Y11
2. Continue with Mandarin as part of the *Mandarin Excellence Programme* (this is only available if they are already signed up to this and are prepared to undertake the extra lessons required)
3. Continue with Mandarin on a less accelerated pathway - aiming to complete the GCSE by the end of Y11

We would like you to consider the possibilities carefully with your son and to indicate on the reply slip which option they would like to follow next year. Please complete the reply slip below and return it to me, via your son's Form Tutor, by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like further information on this matter, please me.

Yours sincerely

Richard Langton  
Head of School

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*Please return this slip to Mr Langton via form tutors by Friday 28th April*

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Pupil's name:.....Form:.....

Please order your choice for modern foreign languages in Year 8:

French/Spanish (you will continue with Y7 option)		Mandarin excellence programme		Non-accelerated Mandarin	
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Parent's signature:.....