

Dear Year 6 Parents and Guardians

Re: Foreign Language Preferences

I am writing in order to give you some further information about our curriculum for Foreign Languages, and to ask you to indicate your preference for the languages your son/ward will study from September.

The foreign languages that we offer are French, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and Latin*. All of our students study two foreign languages throughout Year 7 and Year 8. At this point, they will choose one of these two languages to follow through Year 9 with the expectation that this will be continued to GCSE level in Years 10 and 11. It is possible for students who have demonstrated a particular aptitude for languages to continue both languages in Year 9 and indeed through to GCSE. All four languages are available as options for A level study in our Sixth Form.

**Latin is being introduced this year in place of German, which we are no longer offering.*

At the Langton, we strongly believe in the importance and value of each of the four languages that we offer. The three Modern Foreign Languages are tools for communication in a globalised world, valuable skills for future employment, and avenues to explore other cultures. Latin strongly supports language learning in other subjects (including English), and provides a window into the culture and literature of ancient Rome, which can be studied further as part of GCSE and AS Ancient History in Y10-13.

From this point of view, we see each of the four languages as being of great value, and thus the choice of which to study is one that we offer to individual parents and students to make based on your own preferences and priorities. Note that no previous knowledge of any language is presumed, although if some students are already familiar with the language this is used for the benefit of the group as a whole.

Please would you indicate your preference for your son's/ward's **two** languages to be studied in Year 7 and 8. One of the two must be French or Spanish, so the permissible combinations are as in the grid below.

	Preference Order (1, 2 or 3)
French and Latin	
French and Mandarin	
French and Spanish	
Spanish and Latin	
Spanish and Mandarin	

While we hope to be able to accommodate all of your preferred combinations, we ask that you indicate **three combinations in preference order** in the event that we are not able to do so.

Please will you email Mrs Sheppard (Head of Year 7) at asheppard@thelangton.kent.sch.uk with your stated preferences by Friday 1st July by indicating your preferences in the grid above. We ask that you rank your choices from 1 to 3. If we have not heard from you by this deadline, we will make the assignment for you. It will not be possible to make any changes to language choices after this date.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J. Eagle
Director of Studies
