



18 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Expression of Interest – Community Language GCSE 2024**

We would like to give you the opportunity to express an interest in entering your child into an additional examination for a foreign language for the summer series in 2024 that they currently do not study in school. For example, if your child's mother tongue is Arabic they can be entered for the Arabic GCSE examination **in addition** to their other subjects. A student can be entered for a language examination even if they have chosen to not study a language at GCSE with us. **Please note, it is preferable for students to undertake this in Y10 as they will have more time to prepare and there are unlikely to be any clashes with RS. However, we will take students in Y11.**

The languages which have a GCSE examination with the accredited examination boards that we are registered with are as follows:

#### [AQA](#)

#### **GCSE**

Bengali, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew (Modern), Italian, Panjabi, Polish, Spanish, Urdu

#### [Pearson](#)

#### **GCSE**

Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew (Biblical), Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu

Please research the specification before making a decision and note that these are offered as a foreign language qualification, not a first language qualification. All specifications are available on the examination board websites (linked above).

As with any language examination, it is important that they are able to **read, speak, listen and write** the language with confidence.

It is important to understand that Maiden Erlegh School in Reading is **not** responsible for the tuition or preparation of your child for the examination, but we will be able to organise and accommodate your child on the day of the examination(s). We do however offer consultation sessions to our students with our foreign language teachers, where they explain exam expectations and requirements. As this would be an additional GCSE qualification to their curriculum, we would enter them as a private candidate, and you would be expected to pay the fee for the examination board and the associated costs. The exam board fee varies between the different examination boards and different languages but is somewhere between £38 and £65. We would also need to add on any additional costs that we would incur, such as invigilator costs, and this would depend on when the examination falls and if we need separate invigilation to facilitate it. The total cost for the language that you choose will be confirmed to you before you have to commit to paying. This examination would then be included within their examination timetable. If your child is in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant, then this could potentially be used to partially fund it – please speak to your child's Head of Year to explore this further.

Whilst the examination board that we use in MER for non-private for French and Spanish is **AQA, private candidates** can choose from any of the boards that offer the relevant language. It is important to know which board your child will be using when you are considering revision guides or tutors after school. ***Please note, if we cannot source a member of staff to conduct the speaking examination then it will be your responsibility to find someone and pay any associated costs for them. This cannot be a relative.*** We will tell you if you need to do this before you commit your child to the examination.

If you wish your child to be considered for entry into an additional examination in one of the listed languages in this letter, [please complete this form here](#) by **Wednesday 1 November 2023**. If we have enough interest then we will write to you again to detail the total cost of your request. We would then need this amount to be paid before we can enter the student into the examination.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Gale  
Examinations Officer