

23 October 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Expression of Interest – Community Language GCSE 2025

We would like to offer you the opportunity to express an interest in entering your child for an additional examination in a foreign language for the summer series in 2025. This exam is not related to a language they are studying 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 not to study that language at GCSE level with us.

Please note, we offer this as an option in Year 10. It will not be possible to undertake a Community Language GCSE when your child is in Year 11.

We are registered with the following examination boards who offer a GCSE in the languages listed below:

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

OCR GCSE – Classical Greek, Latin

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 (see AQA, OCR & Pearson links above).

As with any language examination, it is important that they are able to **read, speak, listen and write** the language with confidence. In line with the JCQ and Ofqual guidelines, we will require your child to undertake a mock exam for the language that they will sit in February 2025, so that we have evidence of your child's ability prior to the summer examination series.

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 required 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 £50 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 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 Mr D Hood to explore this further.

Whilst the examination board that we use in MER for French and Spanish (non-private) is **AQA**, **private candidates** can choose from any of the boards that offer their chosen 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 **6 December 2024**. 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

DLawrence

Miss D Lawrence
Examinations Officer

