



1 October 2025

Expression of Interest – Community Language GCSE 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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 2026 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, this is an option for students in Year 10 and Year 11, but students are encouraged to take them in Year 10.***

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

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 (linked 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 2026, 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 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 £55 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 Mrs Gibbs to explore this further.

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 **11th December 2025**. 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

D Lawrence

Miss D Lawrence
Examinations Officer

