

28TH JUNE 2021

This weekly bulletin for parents and carers shares the practices that are shaping our successful journey as a school. Each week will see a different focus covering aspects such as teaching & learning, curriculum, assessment, pastoral care, attendance, careers, well-being, personal development and much more.

WHY STUDY A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

Did you know, learning a modern foreign language helps your memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence. By studying a modern foreign language at GCSE students will develop strong skills that are transferable to other areas of study. A language at GCSE builds on what students have learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9. Classes are still interactive but cover topics in both more depth and at a greater pace. Students will easily notice the gains and progress they make in a short period of time. Also, by studying a language at GCSE, students don't just learn the language but also get to find out about other people, countries and cultures so it really is an interesting and varied subject.

10 REASONS WHY MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES ARE GREAT?

- English is not enough! Not everyone speaks or wants to speak English.
- In lessons, you get to study a wide range of topics all about different people and cultures, not just how to speak.
- Languages mean business – being able to speak a language will really make you stand out during future interviews for college, apprenticeship and university.
- You can read books, watch films and listen to songs in their native language – and understand them too.
- Languages are good for you! Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and improves your memory.
- It's really impressive to be able to speak a foreign language. It's a real achievement that your friends and future employers will love!
- You can understand and talk to lots more people when you go abroad.

- Using a language at work is reported to raise salaries by 8-20%.
- Learning a language really improves your communication skills.
- A language will always be useful, no matter what you do.

WHAT MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DO STUDENTS STUDY IN OUR SCHOOL?

At Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, we study French and Spanish. To make sure students study a language in sufficient depth and to practice their language skills regularly, students specialise in the language of their choice during KS3. Students in both Year 7 and Year 8 have indicated to us the language they wish to specialise in next year. A good amount of curriculum time is dedicated to languages. Students typically have five hours of teaching time over two weeks studying either French or Spanish. The majority of students will continue with their chosen language at GCSE. We are also keen to build on the language students have been learning whilst at primary school. Students who join us in Year 7 next year will continue with the language followed by their primary school ensuring continuity building on their current knowledge base and development of skills.

WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of the GCSE subjects listed below that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people. The Department for Education recommends that students follow the EBacc subjects as it will help keep their options open when they leave school. A modern foreign language is needed for students to follow the EBacc set of subjects and qualifications.

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science
- History or Geography
- **Modern foreign language**

Choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives students access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If students are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is well regarded as a strong set of subjects that can be supplemented further by more creative subjects.