



Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Modern Foreign Languages in Year 8

As part of our broad and ambitious curriculum our intention was to give all Year 7 students an experience of three different Modern Foreign Languages during their first year at Denton Community College: French, German and Spanish. Unfortunately, the impact of the pandemic on student learning meant that teaching this carousel of languages was not possible and students continued with the language they began in September.

When planning next year, our goal has been to maximise the opportunities for students to develop their confidence and skills in languages. The Department of Education have made it clear that this involves a particular focus on:

- Identifying and teaching essential vocabulary for progression.
- making sure pupils have a strong mastery of the sound and spelling system.
- reinforcing understanding of grammar.

We have therefore taken the difficult decision that students in your child's year will continue with the same language that they are currently studying. This is not a decision we have taken lightly as you can imagine, but by doing this we can effectively fill the gaps where learning has been lost, help students to master key knowledge and help create increasing fluency in the language they are learning. The additional time to study one language will be an advantage if, as we hope, they choose it as an option at GCSE.

Studying languages is still a very important part of the curriculum experience for students; they open up new cultural horizons as well as providing qualifications that are highly valued by employers. Therefore, alongside lessons we will offer additional extra-curricular opportunities next year so that students are able to get a taste for those other languages. We already have a German day planned and will soon be in touch to tell you about our other exciting plans! Whilst these will not be of the same depth as formal lessons, we hope you will encourage your child to take part and that it will feed their passion for the language they are studying.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "d. cumming".

Donald Cumming
Deputy Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Jones".

Alison Jones
Head of Modern Foreign Languages