



16th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start to the Year 7 language students have made this year. They have really impressed the department with their confidence and enthusiasm for learning - and it has been lovely to see so many bringing their language books along on PROUD Thursday, which you might have seen on the school's @Denton College Twitter/X account.

We are writing to let you know about the plans for Year 7 language lessons after half term. The first half term has given students a taste of learning a language at high school but after half term the whole year group will settle down to focus on just one language: French. This will bring us in line with all the other schools in our new Northern Education Trust family, and we have already been working with the NET team of language directors to align our curriculum and teaching resources with theirs.

This may feel like a big change, but it is an approach that has real success in the other Northern Education Trust schools. We remain absolutely committed to increasing the number of students who choose to take a language at GCSE and will also continue to offer German and Spanish at GCSE as well as French. However, by all students studying one language at KS3 we are able to offer a greater focus across the teaching team and your child will benefit from the expertise of colleagues across Northern Education Trust.

As an example, last summer at one of the NET secondary schools' students achieved the following grades in languages.

91% got grade 4 or above (old grade C)

87% achieved grade 5

42% achieved grade 7 and above

9 students got grade 9

These are outstanding results and amongst the very best in the country. I am sure you will agree there is much we will benefit from, including the deployment of their subject directors in school to work with our students.

Your child's teacher will talk to them about the plans for after half term this week and we look forward to an 'avenir prometteur' (exciting future) in the French lessons for the next three years!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'd. cumming', is positioned below the 'Kind regards,' text.

Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Jones', is positioned to the right of the 'Kind regards,' text.

Alison Jones
Head of MFL