

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Extra-curricular Languages and Community Languages Policy

Attaining a GCSE in a modern foreign language can assist students into jobs with employers serving diverse communities who are actively seeking people that can speak languages other than English.

Currently, our school curriculum offers French and German to students but we recognise that a growing number of students speak and study languages other than English at home.

TBSHS will offer these students the opportunity to sit one additional foreign language* GCSE in Year 10 and **not before****. This offer will also be extended to Year 11 students. The exam entry fee, administration and invigilating costs will be paid for by TBSHS.

This opportunity is restricted to GCSE qualifications only. A-level qualifications will not be available.

* The languages available will be French, German, Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Polish and Spanish. Please note that due to the regulations of the speaking exam, **no other** languages will be offered.

In the unlikely event that a designated examiner is no longer available to conduct the speaking component, TBSHS will do its utmost to source a suitable replacement. However, if this is not possible, TBSHS reserve the right to withdraw a student from the qualification at any point up until the end of the exam board's speaking exam window.

** Due to limited resources (*eg.* exam rooming, invigilators) requests from students to sit extra-curricular languages before Year 10 will not be considered.

Extra-curricular Languages / Community Languages Flow Chart

Late September – Year 10 students will be informed during assembly that the school will be offering GCSEs in extra-curricular/home languages (see list of languages available). Students will be asked to register their interest with the exams' officer or head of MFL

Year 10 parents will also be informed via the parental bulletin.

Both Year 10 & 11 will be offered the opportunity.

Note: Eligible students must be able to speak, read and write in their extra-curricular /community language.

Early November – Students will be assessed for fluency using an exam specimen listening test. Writing will also be assessed with the support of a first-language speaker

Late November –Students and parents will be informed of the results of their assessment. If eligible to continue, students will be issued a 'timetable' for coaching sessions starting from January.

January onwards - Familiarisation/coaching sessions will be provided for students, using past exam papers. The number of practice sessions will depend on the student's individual needs.

End of February – A letter will be sent to students and parents confirming exam entry, exam dates and speaking exam window dates.

March/April - The student will be asked to prepare topics for conversation for the prescribed themes for the speaking exam. The date and time of the speaking exam will be confirmed to students and parents.