

Headteacher: Simon Harrison BA (Hons) FHA

Our ref: AAM/LCH/Admin/Departs/Langs/Yr9 Options

2 December 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you will be aware, students in Year 9 will be making their GCSE option choices next term. I am writing to you to outline the benefits of taking a language at GCSE. Year 9 students are currently studying German.

Students often tell us that they find languages difficult in comparison with other subjects. It is true that languages require you to think hard but the benefit of this is that learning a language has been proven to help with overall communication, memory and cognitive skills.

Students sometimes think they need to be virtually bilingual to pass the GCSE. This is not the case. The key to success with language is to learn little and often; if a student learns 10 new words or phrases a week, they will have the vocabulary they need.

The Confederation of British Industry have identified a national shortage of business leaders and employees with language skills. Post Brexit, European language skills will be in ever increasing demand as British companies wishing to do business with European customers may not be able to rely on employing EU candidates as easily as they have in the past.

The Russell Group universities (those universities with the strongest reputation for research and academic excellence) usually require A levels in two "facilitating subjects". Languages fall into this category. Some universities are now starting to require that applicants have a GCSE in a foreign language.

We have a tradition of strong GCSE results in MFL at Crofton: our most recent German cohort in 2018 achieved 88% grade 4-9 and our French cohort this year achieved 80% grade 4-9. This puts MFL as one of the top-scoring subject areas in the school.

Crofton School strongly recommends that students study a foreign language at GCSE; I hope the above information has helped to explain the benefits of this. We will be looking at German as an option in more detail during the next two months and we hope this will help students make an informed choice. I will be in the MFL rooms at Options Evening next term, along with my colleagues. Please do take the opportunity to come and visit us.

If you have any queries about GCSE German in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via email, aadam@croftonschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Adam
MFL Subject Leader