



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

June 2020

To the parents of Year 7 pupils,

## Year 8 Modern Foreign Languages 2020-21

Dear Parent/Guardian,

When your child moves into Year 8 in September, there will be some minor changes in the curriculum. This will include the teaching of separate sciences, which will mean slight changes in the allocation of time to other subjects. There is also (as outlined below) an option to make with regards to the Modern Foreign Language studied.

Over the past few years, we have changed our policy towards Modern Foreign Languages so that only a language started in Year 7 can be continued through to GCSE. As part of our commitment to the *Confucius Classroom* and *Mandarin Excellence Programmes*, all students began Mandarin at the start of Year 7 alongside a European language (either French or Spanish).

We have evaluated our approach and have decided that the demands of the *Mandarin Excellence Programme* are such that we need to make extra curriculum provision for this pathway, alongside the additional extra time that pupils are expected to give to the subject outside of timetabled lessons. We also feel that, with the demands of the new reformed GCSEs, we need to make more time at Key Stage 3 for students to focus on only one core language.

We are therefore asking the students to make a choice. For their core language, they can either:

1. Continue with their European language (French or Spanish), with an aim to completing their GCSE at the end of Year 11
2. Continue with Mandarin as part of the *Mandarin Excellence Programme* (this is only available if your child has already signed up to this and is prepared to undertake the extra lessons required)
3. Continue with Mandarin on the standard GCSE pathway – completing the GCSE by the end of Year 11

We would like you to consider the possibilities carefully with your child and to indicate on the Microsoft Form at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=E1T1PdfOSEuPbjC8TawIT16VNIItSuf1NrC5wlUqKWrtUQRQN1E4SIJONzIKUEFMTUgyVVICNU00RS4u>

which option they would like to follow next year. Please complete the form online by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. If you would like further information on this matter, please contact the school on [enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

Michael Lax  
Deputy Headteacher