



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

23rd May 2024

Year 6 – MFL Preference

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted that your child will be joining the Whitburn Church of England Academy community in September 2024 and I am looking forward to enjoying a happy and fruitful partnership with you and your child over the coming years.

Year 6 is an emotional time for parents and carers and we fully appreciate that one of your concerns will be about your child's transition from primary to secondary school. We are continuing in our transition work with the primary schools, so that we can begin to get to know your child and to continue to do all we can to make your child's move to secondary school as smooth and supportive as possible.

Learning a language is an important step in your child's secondary education. At Whitburn we offer 3 MFL choices, French, Spanish and Mandarin, where students are able to learn about various cultures and traditions as a global citizen. The languages we offer have been deemed as being 'of crucial importance for the UK' by the report by the [British Council Report](#) and also in the 2021 government '[Foreign languages: skills in the workforce](#)' publication.

Why choose to study Spanish?

Spanish is an official language of 21 countries across three continents. With more than 400 million speakers, it is the second most spoken language by number of native speakers in the world, after Mandarin. It is considered one of the **easiest languages to learn** as it is completely phonetic and its pronunciation is relatively straightforward.

Why choose to study French?

French is one of the most studied foreign languages in the world, with more than 300 million people speaking it over five continents. Some 40 to 50% of English vocabulary comes from French so the study of French will also enhance your grammar skills. In addition, the ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market.

Why choose to study Mandarin?

Mandarin Chinese the language with the most native speakers in the world, at more than 900 million. China's meteoric rise as a global economic powerhouse has transformed the dynamics of international business. Proficiency in Mandarin can open professional and personal doors; the ability to hold even a basic conversation in Chinese can give you a competitive edge in sectors ranging from finance and trade to technology and tourism.

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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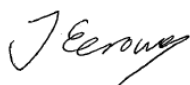
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I am delighted that, once again, Whitburn C of E Academy is able to offer these exciting and enriching curriculum options for our fantastic students.

Year 7 students will be allocated one of these languages to study from September. We ask that you complete this [form](#) to indicate your child's order of preference, if they have one, for which language they would prefer to study during Key Stage 3. **Please complete this form by 6pm on Friday 14th June.**

We will try our best to accommodate any preference indicated, but *please be aware that it may not always be possible due to class sizes and timetabling constraints.* If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Watson, Head of MFL, via the Main Academy Office.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Crowe', written in a cursive style.

J Crowe
Principal