



June 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Language Choices for new Year 7 Students September 2019

I am writing to inform you of some important curriculum choices that we would ask you to make with your son/ daughter, ahead of them joining the school in September 2019.

With regard to Modern Languages, incoming students are asked to choose between French and Spanish. We ask students to spend the first year of the Senior School concentrating on this one Modern Language, in addition to Latin. At this time they may, of course, attend any of the other language clubs offered.

Please note that students that may like to study both French and Spanish during their time at New Hall, should select French in Year 7. In Year 8, students who have demonstrated a particular aptitude in French are offered the opportunity to then study both French and Spanish in Years 8 and 9. It is important to note that any students who initially opt for Spanish will not typically have the choice of then taking up French (although exceptions may be made if a student is particularly proficient in their languages).

We would therefore recommend that you discuss this important choice with your son / daughter. Some questions to consider are:

- Would you benefit from a fresh start in a new language?
- Do you wish to build on what you have already learnt?
- Do you wish to have the option to study two Modern Languages to GCSE level? (You should choose French initially for this option to be possible.)
- Which language do you prefer the sound of? Try listening to both French and Spanish to help you decide.
- Spanish is considered a bit easier to write as it is phonetic. Many students who find spelling difficult, including dyslexic students, find Spanish easier than French.
- Spanish is also a little closer (in its vocabulary and grammar) to Latin, which your child will also be studying.
- Is there a particular language you are more likely to need to use?

If, having considered these questions, you and your child are still undecided please feel free to get in touch as we are always happy to help guide these decisions. Ultimately, if you are unable to decide, we will be able to allocate a language for them. It may be reassuring to bear in mind that either French or Spanish, accompanied by Latin, provide a secure foundation for the acquisition of any other languages in later life. In a few exceptional cases it is appropriate for a student not to start a Modern Language, but to have Learning Development scheduled at this

time. In these cases, Mrs Groves, Head of Learning Development, will be in contact with you to discuss this further.

I should be grateful if you would complete the form in your starter pack, indicating your preference by **Monday 24 June 2019**, in order that we can prepare the timetable accordingly. If you have no preference, please also indicate this.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Tiffen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Paul Tiffen
VICE PRINCIPAL
(CURRICULUM, GROWTH AND INNOVATION)