



Ms S Reynes, Head of Languages

15 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 7 students,

Languages in Key Stage Three

Since joining Cheney in September, your child has had the opportunity to study French, and will continue with it at least to the end of Year 9. In addition, students will start another language in Year 8 to carry on through Year 9. We expect that most students will study at least one language over the course of Years 10 and 11 (to GCSE standard).

In preparation for second language choices in Year 8, please express a preference using the link below for the language your child would most like to study out of German, Spanish and Latin. This will be in addition to French that they currently study.

Historically, we would offer a taster lesson in each of these options but as we are unable to do so this year, we would like you to read the information below to help you make an informed decision.

German: This language has many links with English and so vocabulary can be easier to learn and build (Wasser = Water, Buch = Book, Bruder = Brother etc.). Furthermore, German words are often very logical and are made up of lots of smaller words put together, so you can start to learn more complicated vocabulary from smaller, basic words (Schwimmbad = swimming pool; 'Swim' + 'bath', so a bath where you can swim!). German is still one of the most important languages in business and Germany has the biggest economy in the European Union; think about all the German car companies we have in Oxford alone and how learning German could open up a world of travel opportunities through companies such as BMW and Audi. Give this article a read if you need more reasons why German is still an important language to learn: <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/german/why-learn-german/>

Latin: While this course is called 'Latin', it is actually a crash course in all things to do with the ancient Greeks and Romans. Starting at around 1600 BC, you'll explore some of the weirdest and most wonderful things about these two ancient civilisations, get a taste of ancient Greek, and an introduction to Latin too. Latin and Greek form the basis of many words in English and several other languages, and learning Latin is a bit like a master key that unlocks lots of other languages! From the colosseum to the city that was covered in volcanic ash, from ancient art to the mysterious labyrinth with its dark secrets, if you want to find out more about these ancient civilisations and their beautiful languages, then you will really enjoy this course! Find out more about what we get up to on the blog at www.apolloandartemis.blog

Spanish: Currently the second most spoken language worldwide after English, and the official language of over twenty countries, Spanish boasts a similar grammar system to English, making it popular and easy to learn for English speakers. Through the exciting

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discovery of Hispanic popular culture (from tomato-throwing festivals to the Day of the Dead), music (from world-famous artists like Enrique Iglesias to mariachi bands), film (from Pan's Labyrinth to Coco), and literature (from Cervantes to Gabriel García Marquez), studying Spanish will broaden both your mind and career prospects as you gain access to a wealth of opportunities that stretch across multiple continents. Check this out if you're still in two minds: https://www.vistawide.com/spanish/why_spanish.htm

Please indicate your languages in order of preference with 1 being your favourite choice and 3 being your least favourite.

It is important that we create suitably sized teaching groups and for that reason we reserve the right to allocate students accordingly if certain students' choices cannot be met.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Reynes (Head of Languages)

To express your preference, please follow the link below.
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pA9tCl1gl5-V1QQZQkY6B_TXBRI_UukAMJH7EfGBSRE

Replies must be sent through by Friday, June 26th 2020.