

1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

**MFL Recommendation for when your child starts Year 8 (September 2024)**

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, your child has had the exciting opportunity to study at least one of the two most spoken languages in the world, Mandarin (Chinese) and/or Spanish. Alongside English, the third most spoken language in the world, this will be a great asset to them in the future.

At the start of Year 8, all students will move to studying one Modern Foreign Language only. We firmly believe that learning a foreign language is something that all students can do. Nonetheless, the GCSE exams in Year 11 are demanding and so it is important that students have increased curriculum time in Years 8 and 9 to meet the demands of further study in Years 10 and 11.

**Recommendation**

All students have been given a recommendation of which language to continue to study which you will find detailed below. Recommendations have been discussed carefully by subject teachers using a range of data, including assessment, classwork, and homework information to identify the language where we feel they will be best placed to continue their studies.

Based on the data and discussions with MFL Teaching staff, your child will study **Spanish** from Year 8.

**Mandarin Excellence Programme**

If your child is part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme, your child will continue with this programme into Year 8, as outlined in the initial interest letter at the end of last year. They will have 2 lessons per week with their class teacher and an additional compulsory 1-hour weekly twilight lesson after school.



Students have made excellent progress as linguists in Year 7 and there are strong reasons for studying either Spanish or Mandarin, both of which will equally benefit students in developing core learning habits and employability skills.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [scottr@watling.academy](mailto:scottr@watling.academy).

Kinds regards,

Mr R Scott  
Head of MFL