



Birchwood High School

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Year 7 - MFL Class Changes

07 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please note that Modern Foreign Language classes for Year 7 will follow a new pattern starting from Tuesday 7th January; they have received a new printed timetable in form time today.

Students have **not** been placed in sets according to ability, they are **all in mixed ability sets**, based on language preferences given at the end of last term, as well as which teachers teach certain languages. The numbers attached to classes (1, 2, 3 and 4) are for identifying the **different classes not sets** and all currently appear as French lessons. This will be amended as soon as possible to reflect the language lessons students are attending.

For your information the codes relating to different languages going forwards are as follows:

7xFr1 – French + Spanish

7xFr2 – French + Spanish

7xFr3 – French + German

7xFr4 – French only

7yFr1 – French + German

7yFr2 – French only

7yFr3 – French + Spanish



7yFr4 – French + Spanish

We have tried to meet the first preferences of students wherever possible. Unfortunately, the option to learn French and Spanish was oversubscribed, in particular on the x-side of the school. As a result, we have had to re-allocate a number of students given the limited capacity to teach different languages. Where this is the case, students may have been re-allocated based on one of the following:

Principal, Mr Sam Griffin

Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5BD

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- Late submission or non-submission of the preferences form sent out in December 2024.
- Students who we believe, professionally, would benefit from focusing on one language, as studying two would reduce their chances of making solid progress overall in MFL.
- Students with larger numbers of behaviour points. As stated in the previous e-mail, Attitude to Learning was to be considered, if needed, given the large class sizes in Spanish.

We appreciate that this may leave some students feeling disappointed if they are not offered their first preference. For context, only a few years ago we only had one Spanish and one German class in a year group, so have taken steps to increase our second language offering significantly. Of course, these class sizes still have limits and whilst we wish everyone could have their first preference, this is not always possible. We have tried to ensure that second preferences have been offered where they have been made clear to us.

I hope this helps to clear up any misunderstandings. If there are any enquiries following on from these changes, please direct them to me in the first instance or ask students to come and see me.

Kind Regards,

Mr G Bowman

Second in MFL

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