

# The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

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Headteacher:  
Rob James

27 March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We regularly review our curriculum to ensure students have a broad and balanced offer that allows progress to GCSE and BTEC courses, which will form a solid foundation for their future career choices.

This year we have completed a curriculum review and decided to make a number of changes based on the increased level of challenge posed by the reformed GCSE and BTEC courses, the popularity of subjects and feedback from students.

Currently, most students study two languages, German and French, from Year 7 until the end of Year 9. However, the majority of students if they decide to continue their studies to GCSE level only opt for one language and they have often made choice of a preferred language by the end of Year 7. Therefore, we are asking students to choose either French or German to study in Years 8 and 9. We will endeavour to ensure as many students are able to study their preferred language but this may not be possible due to timetabling restrictions. Therefore, please indicate your son/daughter's choice in order of preference on the reply slip.

From September 2018, students will have six lessons of one language every two weeks. The increase in curriculum time, will allow students to deepen their level of understanding, knowledge, speaking, and listening skills. It will be a much stronger foundation for progression to GCSE courses and develop greater subject confidence, hopefully encouraging more students to choose to continue their language studies.

We appreciate a small number of students may wish to study two language GCSE courses. This may be possible depending on demand. Further information will be distributed when students begin in the options process in Year 9.

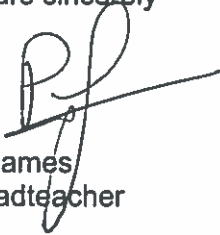
For those students who wish to sit a GCSE course in a language other than French or German, there is the option of taking an additional GCSE in their first language other than English, for example, Polish. These are not taught courses, but the resources are provided for independent study based on an examination only entry. If you are interested, please discuss the options available with Mrs Starke.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that an extra-curricular Spanish Club runs every week, providing students with an opportunity to learn conversational Spanish.

As a result of restructuring of the curriculum for languages, additional time is allocated to Geography and History in Year 8. In Year 9, all students will study a new course, Financial Capability, accredited by the London Institute of Banking and Finance. The course will cover a variety of areas including personal banking, mortgages, understanding wages and taxes in addition to many other aspects of financial planning.

Please complete the reply slip below and return to the Main Office by Friday 20 April.

Yours sincerely



R James  
Headteacher



C Greenslade  
Assistant Headteacher



C Starke (Mrs)  
Curriculum Leader – MFL

To: Main Office, The Ramsey Academy, Halstead

Student Name .....

Tutor Group .....

Order of preference – indicate 1 or 2

- French
- German

List the additional GCSE language you may wish to study if it is your first language other than English.

Signed .....  
Parent/Carer

Date .....

Signed .....  
Student

Date .....

Please return to the Main Office by Friday 20 April