



HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

Address: Egley Road, Woking, GU22 0NH
Office Tel: 01483 662627
Email: info@hoevalleyschool.org
Web: www.hoevalleyschool.org
Head Teacher: Mrs J Davies

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Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me pleasure to write to you to confirm that students entering Year 7 in September 2021 will learn German as their main language in Year 7. The Languages Faculty at HVS has a strong team of expert and outstanding specialist teachers in French, German, Spanish and Latin, and we are very fortunate to have 3 Foreign Languages Assistants each year to work with students in small groups to develop spoken fluency. We are extremely proud of the HVS Languages For All Policy and especially proud that all students have the opportunity to learn 2 Languages in KS3 and beyond.

Students will have 2 lessons of German in their first year. Your son/daughter will then have the option to choose French or Spanish as a second Modern Foreign Language when they enter Year 8. For those students who have learnt French at Primary School, we will offer enrichment opportunities for them in Year 7. Our students who started German this year have all made excellent progress and are currently forging links with our Partner Schools in Rastatt and Cologne. German is a leading language of the business and research worlds and a popular and well-respected facilitating subject for many further study combinations, such as Engineering, Maths, Science, Economics, Marketing, Business, Law and Politics.

We are very much looking forward to re-launching our residential visits to France, Germany and Spain next year. Typical visits would include a residential and cultural visit to Cologne (German), a residential and cultural visit to Ronda or Madrid (Spanish) or a residential and cultural visit to Paris (French). For older students in Key Stage 4 we are in the process of setting up exchange visits which we are launching this academic year with a Virtual Exchange with the Humboldtgymsnasium in Cologne.

Within school, we will be working with Onatti Productions Ltd to ensure that every student of Languages has the opportunity to participate in an interactive, language-learning theatre performance and workshop.

Testament to the HVS Work Ready Skills is the fact that many of our students carry on with two Languages at GCSE and a growing number of students choose Latin as an extra subject in Year 9. Latin is offered as a very well respected and popular extra and additional GCSE choice and our specialist Latin teacher, Mrs Weightman, would be delighted to talk to Year 7 about Latin when they start school in September.

As Head of Languages, I will shortly be in touch with all the Primary schools to set up a Languages Transition project which will be supported by our German Language Assistant, to ensure



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your son/daughter has had some introduction to German before they begin Year 7 language lessons. I have much experience of working with Primary Schools, having previously led Primary Outreach work for Specialist Language College, and I am very much looking forward to working with your son/daughter. Any Modern Foreign Language learning your son/daughter has learnt at Primary School will be of immense benefit to them. The primary function of KS2 languages is to offer students an opportunity to study a foreign language and develop their interest in the culture of other nations. Your son/daughter will certainly not be at a disadvantage if they have not learnt German previously and we have planned our Transition and Year 7 Schemes of Learning accordingly.

Part of the Community work that we support at HVS is ensuring that all our students who speak a Home Language other than English are supported in obtaining a GCSE qualification in their home language, where one is available. I will be writing to you again in the new academic year with further details about this. Students would typically take this extra and additional GCSE in Year 10, so that they can focus on their suite of GCSE courses in Year 11. Home Languages are very much celebrated at HVS and form an important part of our celebration of European Day of Languages in September of each year.

I look forward to meeting you and your son/daughter in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Natalie Boniface
Head of Languages