



Modern Foreign Languages in Year 7

Dear Parents/Carers,

As previously communicated during the enrolment process, you will be aware that your child is studying French or Spanish. Now that they have begun Year 7, we would like to explain in more depth how Languages work at Beaconsfield High School throughout Key Stage 3 from September 2025.

What has changed and why?

From Year 7, all students will study Latin alongside one Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) through to the end of Key Stage 3. We are making this adjustment to give students more teaching time in a single language, so they can build secure vocabulary, grammar and confidence, and therefore achieve more highly by the time they reach GCSE. While a small number of students nationally pursue two languages at GCSE, this is unusual; at Beaconsfield High School, around 99% of our students choose one Modern Foreign Language at GCSE. Our curriculum design is therefore designed to support the majority of learners to excel.

Why Latin?

Studying Latin brings wide benefits. It strengthens understanding of how languages are structured and improves vocabulary and grammar in English. Because a significant proportion of English words have Latin roots, Latin directly supports spelling, comprehension and writing. It also enriches subjects such as History and Science, where many technical terms derive from Latin, and develops memory, problem-solving and analytical thinking.

Why one Modern Foreign Language?

Mastering a Modern Foreign Language such as French or Spanish equips students with lifelong skills that reach far beyond the classroom. Focusing on one language allows students to develop deeper fluency over time, with regular practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing. This depth supports success at GCSE and beyond.

Pathways for keen linguists

In Year 9, we will offer selected students the opportunity to take up a second Modern Foreign Language through lunchtime enrichment. Those students will be supported so that, if they wish, they can continue the second language at GCSE in Year 10.

We are delighted to see our Year 7 students settling into their language studies and look forward to supporting them as they progress. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Manley
Head of MFL

Harriet Watkins
Senior Assistant Headteacher