Dear Parent/Carer,

**Curriculum changes**

I am writing to inform you of some important curriculum changes at Wixams Academy. In order, to ensure that all students have access to a broad, balanced and rich curriculum, we will be continuing all our Key Stage 3 subjects into Year 9. This puts our Key Stage 3 curriculum in line with the majority of schools nationally, allowing us to now cover the full National Curriculum, and give our students the best opportunity for success by ensuring they have a firm foundation in the full range of subjects before starting GCSE courses at Key Stage 4.

As a result, the options process for students choosing their preferences for Key stage 4 will be in the Spring term 2025 for Year 9 students (ie. current Year 8 students). This means when students will have had more opportunity to study subjects in depth at Key Stage 3 and will be able to make more mature, informed choices. The majority of Wixams Academy subjects have always taught a five-year curriculum planned across Year 7 to Year 11, so this change will align to existing departmental planning. The new two-year Key stage 4 will continue to provide the expected teaching hours for all GCSE specifications. We anticipate that these changes will ensure GCSE results will improve across all option subject areas.

**Modern Foreign Languages**

In order, to maximise success in modern foreign languages we would recommend that students specialise in one language in Year 9. This will allow students to develop fluency as they will have twice the time to study a single language. Teachers will be recommending students for a particular course, but we would like to have your input as well.

Attached to this letter are course descriptions for Key stage 3 French and Spanish. The teachers have also created an information video which is available on the website:

French <https://youtu.be/a9i3KG852B4>

Spanish <https://youtu.be/cd6lIjIPylE>

Your child’s language teacher will also share this information with your child in school. You are of course welcome to email your child’s language teacher or the Head of department if you have any concerns or queries.

Please can I ask that you complete the Microsoft form <https://forms.office.com/e/zZk6ADtfQP>

by **Thursday 15th February**.

Although we will endeavour to assign students to their preferred choice, we cannot guarantee this. We will contact you directly as soon as possible if this is likely to be the case, but it is clearly important that students continue to try their best in all subjects. You will be informed of the final the language choice in July. If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Head of Spanish, Mrs. M Valverde, [MValverdePascual@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:MValverdePascual@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

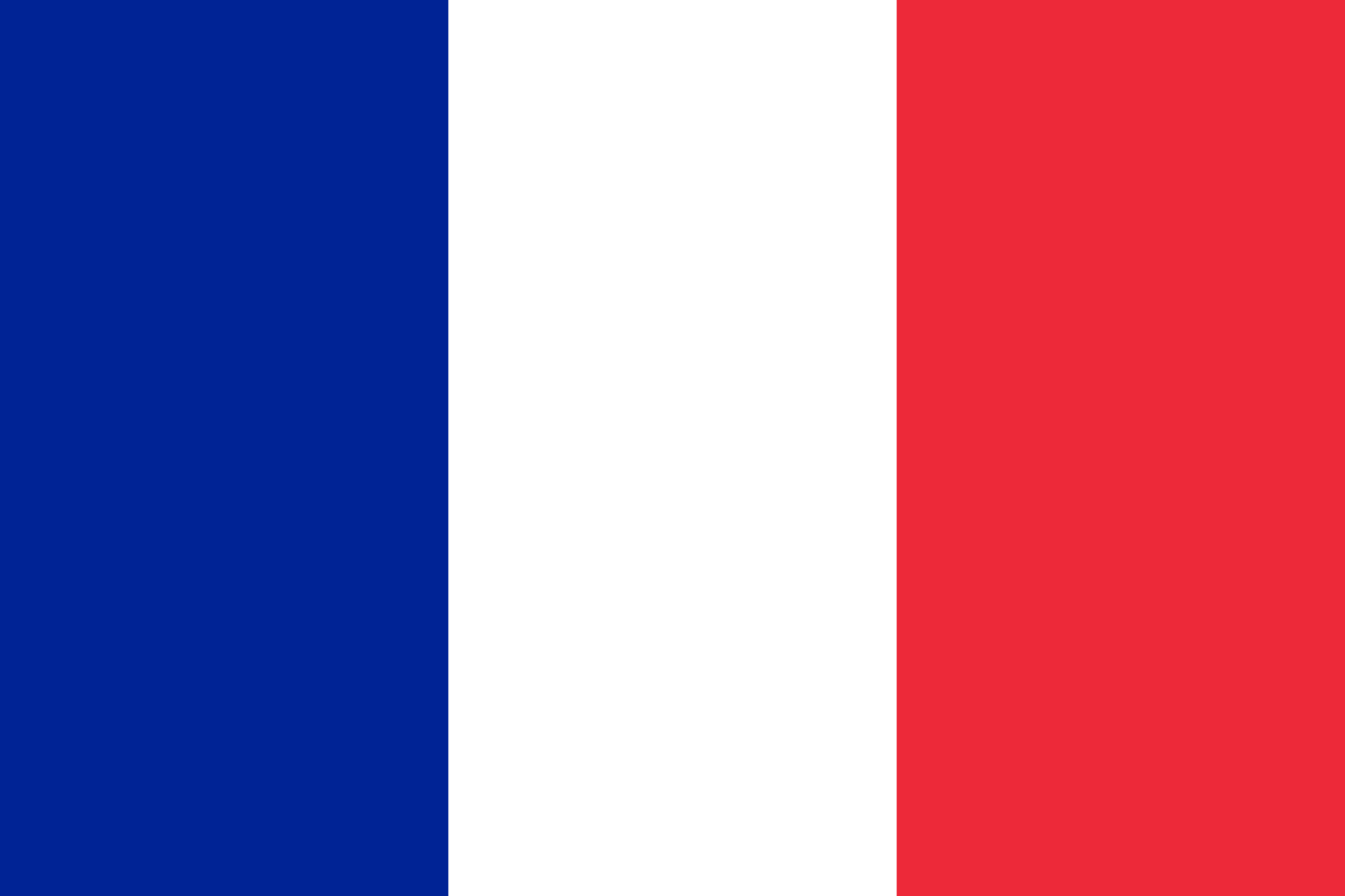
Head of French, Mrs. R Connelly, [RConnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:RConnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Assistant Principal, Mrs J. Hepburn, [JHepburn@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:JHepburn@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Kind regards,

Jacqueline Hepburn.

French



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| **Course information** | Throughout Key Stage 3, students will study the following topics within the following themes in French:  **My personal world:**  Free time and hobbies  Family and relationships  **Lifestyle and wellbeing:**  Food  Daily routine  **My neighbourhood:**  House and Home – where we live  **Media and technology:**  Film and TV  **Studying and my future:**  School life  Jobs  **Travel and tourism:**  Holidays  Customs and Festivals  Within these topics, students will learn to communicate in French. They will learn a variety of important grammatical structures and be able to use a range of tenses. |
| **What do lessons look like?**  **What do assessments look like?**    **What extra-curricular opportunities are on offer?**  **Where can it lead?**  **Want to know more?** | * Silent starters using retrieval practice * Teaching vocabulary or grammatical structures * Listening and reading comprehension – in depth * Interactive activities such as Wordwall, Blooket, Kahoot * Games to get students speaking in French * Guided writing tasks * Plenaries to review learning   At the end of each unit students will complete EITHER:   * Listening and reading assessments * Speaking and writing assessment   Students are assessed in all four skills over the course of the year and holistic grades are reported home.   * Year 8 – Visit to *Institut français* * Year 9 - Visit to French café * Year 10 – Residential trip to St Omer, France (food themed) * School visits from *Migalaba* or *Onatti theatre* * Language leaders   GCSE French (new GCSE)  A Level French  Opportunities to study or work abroad in the future  Many Universities offer a placement year (these can be abroad for those who have previously studied languages)  Mrs R Connelly, Head of French:  [rconnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:rconnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk)  Mrs Hartwell:  bhartwell@wixamsacademy.co.uk |

Spanish

A red and yellow flag with a coat of arms and a crown

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| **Course information** | Throughout Key Stage 3, students will study the following topics within the following themes in Spanish:  **My personal world:**  Free time and hobbies  Family and relationships  **Lifestyle and wellbeing:**  Food  Daily routine  **My neighbourhood:**  House and Home – where we live  **Media and technology:**  Film and TV  **Studying and my future:**  School life  Jobs  **Travel and tourism:**  Holidays  Customs and Festivals  Within these topics, students will learn to communicate in Spanish. They will learn a variety of important grammatical structures and be able to use a range of tenses. |
| **What do lessons look like?**  **What do assessments look like?**  **What extra-curricular opportunities are on offer?**  **Where can it lead?**  **Want to know more?** | * Silent starters using retrieval practice * Teaching vocabulary or grammatical structures * Listening and reading comprehension – in depth * Interactive activities such as Wordwall, Blooket, Kahoot * Games to engage students speaking in Spanish * Guided writing tasks * Plenaries to review learning   At the end of each unit students will complete EITHER:   * Listening and reading assessments * Speaking and writing assessment   Students are assessed in all four skills over the course of the year and holistic grades are reported home.   * Year 9 – Visit to a Spanish restaurant (tapas trip) * Year 10 – Residential trip to Murcia (Spain) * Spanish ambassadors   GCSE Spanish (new GCSE)  A Level Spanish  Opportunities to study or work abroad in the future  Opportunities to work in companies where they require language knowledge: eg. Travel companies, investment companies, international banks…  Many Universities offer a placement year (these can be abroad for those who have previously studied languages)  Mrs M Valverde  Head of Spanish  [mvalverdepascual@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:mvalverdepascual@wixamsacademy.co.uk)  Miss Della Ripa  Spanish teacher  [ldellaripa@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:ldellaripa@wixamsacademy.co.uk)  Miss Prats  Spanish teacher  [aprats@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:aprats@wixamsacademy.co.uk) |