

HOLBROOK ACADEMY

Headteacher: Thomas Maltby BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: George Anstee-Parry



14th July 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are writing to inform you of some important changes in the provision of Modern Languages at Holbrook Academy.

In the new academic year, we will be reducing our Modern Language provision to just one core language - Spanish. This means that French will only be taught to the current Year 10 class continuing into Year 11. French teaching in other years will not happen in the Autumn term in the first instance, and not until a suitable specialist can be found to run this subject.

This single-language focus will mean that your child will have four lessons of Spanish a fortnight during KS3 which will result in better academic outcomes, which we hope will lead more students to opt for a language at GCSE.

This is not a decision taken lightly. With the current shortage of teachers, it is critical that Holbrook focuses on delivering a high quality curriculum with the staff that we have, rather than stretching ourselves thin with supply staff and non-specialists leading classes. Holbrook Academy employs three Spanish specialists with many years experience. We feel strongly that those talented professionals are the people best placed to engender a lifelong love of languages, and they are at their best when teaching Spanish.

Spanish is now the second most spoken language globally after Mandarin Chinese, and the language with the largest geographical footprint. It is also the language that the majority of students at Holbrook have chosen to study at GCSE in recent years.

We know that developing language skills has many benefits in other subjects - such as problem solving skills, curiosity and memory recall. Additionally, language skills are highly prized in the workforce with employers offering higher salaries for those with language skills. With the importance of Suffolk in the global export and maritime markets, and the proximity to international employers in London, this is a future benefit for your child. Studying a language has never been more important and as an Academy we are fully committed to delivering this at the highest possible standard.

If you would like to discuss this decision further, please feel free to contact Mr Newstead via the school office, or via email: kerrick.newstead@holbrookacademy.org

Yours sincerely,

George Anstee-Parry
Deputy Headteacher

Kerrick Newstead
Assistant Headteacher

