

March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Re: Year 11 GCSE Languages Speaking Exams

We are writing to inform you about the arrangements for the final GCSE speaking examinations in all languages. They will take place between **Thursday 19th April and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April**. The speaking paper represents 25% of the whole GCSE grade.

It is crucial that your daughter attends this examination and we would appreciate your cooperation in not booking external appointments during this time. As this is a public exam, any absence will be dealt with by Mrs Cross (Examinations Officer) according to AQA exam board regulations.

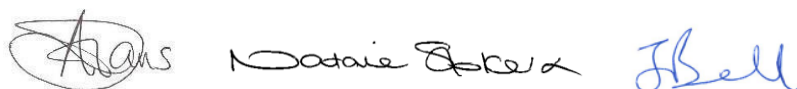
The format of the final exam is a role play, photo card and discussion and a general conversation. The duration of the exam will be 7-9 minutes for Foundation candidates and 10-12 minutes for Higher with 12 minutes supervised preparation time for both. A formal timetable has been published and candidates have been given a time to report to Holt reception. If you would like to check when your daughter's time is, the timetables can be found on the Frog VLE Examinations page along with all other examination timetables.

We are aware that many candidates find this experience particularly stressful and we would be grateful if you would reinforce the positive message that they must attend and do their best on the day. We would like to reassure you and your daughter that we will do our best to put them at their ease.

In order to help with revision, we would suggest that candidates practise all elements of the speaking exam. Evidence shows that practising little and often is the best approach and we would urge them to start sooner rather than later as preparation for the speaking exam is excellent revision for the writing paper. Other methods of revision might include candidates recording themselves and listening back to their responses, working with a partner (or a parent) and revising topic-specific vocabulary. One way in which you as a parent could help, even if you do not speak the language, is to use the prepared answers to encourage responses to questions and comment on confidence and fluency.

If you have any questions about the GCSE speaking examinations, please do not hesitate to contact us by email.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Davis, Mrs N Stoker and Mrs J Bell  
Head of French, Spanish and German