

November 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: GCSE Languages Speaking Exams

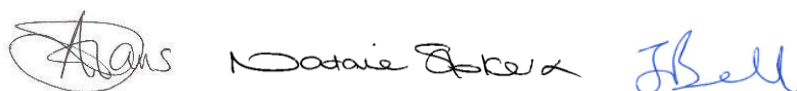
We are writing to inform you about the arrangements for the PPE GCSE speaking papers in all languages. The speaking paper represents 25% of the whole GCSE grade and it is therefore very important that every student attends. Following the main PPE exam block, there will be a two week window from Monday 29 January to Friday 9 February during which the students will have a fixed time slot for their speaking exam with a languages teacher.

The PPE will follow the same format as the final exam – including 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 will be published after Christmas and candidates will be given a time to report to Holt reception. We are aware that many candidates find this experience particularly stressful and would be grateful if you would reinforce the positive message that it would be best for them to attend and do their best on the day.

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.

We would also like to share advance notice that the final exam period for speaking is Monday 16 April – Friday 27 April. As this is a public exam any absence will be dealt with by Mrs Cross (Examinations Officer) according to AQA exam board regulations.

Yours sincerely



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