

JN/TS  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you our newest departmental strategy aimed at supporting student progress in their chosen Modern Foreign Language. Starting the **week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September**, all students of French, German and Spanish in Year 10 will sit a **weekly vocabulary test**.

**Why are these tests important?**

- For their MFL GCSE, students are expected to learn as much vocabulary as they can from the AQA vocabulary lists.
- This vocabulary booklet can seem large and daunting, so we have broken it down into weekly sections for our students.
- In our experience, students with the broadest range of vocabulary can access the most marks in their papers.
- A broad range of vocabulary also brings confidence in lessons.

**What will the tests look like?**

- Students will be given a list of twenty words to revise each week.
- The lists are attached here and have been uploaded to Class Charts.
- Ten words from each weekly list will be chosen at random for each test.
- Students will be expected to translate into English and into the target language.

**Will there be a pass mark?**

- Yes. The class teacher will decide the pass mark and make this clear to the class each week.
- If students do not reach the pass mark, they will be asked to re-take the test at an arranged breaktime in the department. They will be given support in their vocabulary learning at this time.
- If students show no improvement in their re-test, or do not attend their supportive measure, they will be issued with an after-school home learning detention.

**When are the tests happening?**

Tuesday	10D1 Spanish,
Wednesday	10B1 Spanish, 10B2 Spanish, 10B1 French
Thursday	10C1 Spanish, 10C2 Spanish, 10C1 French, 10D1 French, 10D1 German
Friday	10A1 Spanish, 10A2 Spanish, 10A1 German

### How can students revise for these?

- Look-cover-write-check (or 'The Foldy Method') – attached to class charts.
- Making cue cards with English on one side, the target language on the other.
- Using the memrise.com app (each list is already uploaded on class charts and accessible).
- Asking a friend, sibling or adult at home to test them.
- Placing post it notes around the room/ house to help their revision.

From our experience, the students who make the most amount of progress with vocabulary, do this in **short bursts of 5 to 10 minutes regularly across the week**. It is important to take a gradual approach as leaving any revision until the last minute can be more challenging.

### How can I help at home?

- Dedicate a set time each week to check how your child's weekly revision is going.
- Learn a few of the words together.
- Engage in positive conversations around the weekly tests and ask how they have gone.

We appreciate that some students may be anxious around the idea of these vocabulary tests and want to ensure that all students feel that they are well supported in their preparation on a weekly basis. If your child would benefit from any additional help or support regarding these tests, please encourage them to speak with their class teacher directly, or feel free to contact myself at the college, where I will be happy to discuss any queries you may have.

I look forward to hearing about the many successes that this opportunity will bring over this year and I am excited to see our students progress further in their chosen language.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Johnson  
Head of MFL