

28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**RE: Change from GCSE to IGCSE in French, German and Spanish**

We are writing to inform you that as a result of much debate and consideration, and with the agreement of the Headmaster, it has been decided that boys in the current Year 10 will be prepared for the Edexcel IGCSE examination in their Modern Foreign Language; the first examination series being in June 2012.

As a department we have found the recent changes to the GCSE syllabus entirely unsatisfactory and detrimental to both teaching and learning in our Modern Foreign Language classrooms. Indeed we have calculated that last year we spent a full six weeks – approximately one half-term – trapped in the limbo of the controlled assessment process, forbidden by the rules from teaching our boys.

After researching the alternatives we have decided on the IGCSE; the benefits of which are many. There will be a clear two-year run towards a single tier terminal examination at the end of Year 11 tested over two papers: Listening, and Reading and Writing. The Speaking is assessed separately and comes as an independent qualification from the IGCSE.

All of the fine details can be easily accessed from Edexcel's website ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)) but as professionals with years of teaching experience we believe that the IGCSE examination process in Modern Foreign Languages is fairer for all, as well as being a much better preparation for further study should our boys wish to continue to A level.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me: I would be only too happy answer them.

Yours sincerely,

P.E. Howard  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

R.A. Simpson  
Deputy Head (Academic)