

Native Speakers & Bilingual Pupils MFL Department Policy



Kimbolton School

- **Native Speakers in Spanish and French**

Fluency in a language is not simply acquired by having lived or having been raised in a second language for a period of time. Native Speakers who are fluent in the four skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening in their mother tongue (French or Spanish) should not opt for their mother tongue as one of their languages. They may take the GCSE in the Fourth Form and A-Level in the Upper Sixth. They would not normally receive any tuition in school, but appropriate advice will be available on matters such as exam board requirements, specification and past papers. Teachers might be able to advise regarding suitable resources to keep up their language.

- **Pupils who arrive with a near-native or substantial prior knowledge of French or Spanish**

In First to Third Forms these pupils will join the highest available set for their year in French or Spanish. Where appropriate they will join in with the group activities but will also be given extra reading or differentiated work to do in class. It may be possible to allocate some time with the French or Spanish assistants, but this will depend upon availability. Such pupils will often take the GCSE **at the end of the Fourth Form**, only if they have reached the appropriate level and their teacher recommends this. If their teacher feels that they would not achieve a comfortable 8/9 at GCSE at this stage, they will continue to have differentiated work set in class and will take the exam **in the Fifth Form**.

Pupils who want to sit an early GCSE need to inform their language teachers as soon as possible and no later than **the end of November** of the academic year when they intend to sit their exam.

- **Pupils who arrive with a near-native or substantial prior knowledge of languages other than French or Spanish**

In all other cases, we do our best to support the needs of individual pupils, but we cannot offer one-to-one courses or teach the kind of programme that would normally be followed by native-speaking pupils in another country. We are unable to offer any form of tuition for pupils that want to sit an exam in a language that is not taught at Kimbolton. However, we

can offer background advice to candidates that want to sit **an additional exam** in a language which is offered by the exam board that we follow: Pearson Edexcel GCSE / A Level.

The possibilities for these pupils to sit exams are:

In the Fourth Form for GCSE

In the Upper Sixth for A Level

Please visit [Languages | Pearson qualifications](#) to see a list of the languages available.

In these special cases and because we do not teach those languages at Kimbolton, parents will need to take **full responsibility** of the following:

- Find and cover the costs of finding an assessor to conduct the speaking exam. This cannot be a relative or friend.
- Pay for the exam entry and any invigilation costs if there are no other exams running that day.
- Arrange private tuition if necessary.
- Understand the requirements of the specific language specification.
- Be aware of examination dates.

We ask parents to complete a request form that can be found [here](#) or in the Public Exams section of the school website. The form needs to be completed **no later than the end of November of the academic year when they intend to sit their exam.**

In the case of all pupils mentioned above whose first language is not English, the main priority must be to ensure that their English is brought up to a standard which will enable them to follow the whole School Curriculum. This will have to take priority over any other language provision.

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