



Friday 11 January 2019

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to offer you the opportunity to enter your daughter for the AQA FCSE (Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education) qualification in French/ German / Spanish. We started preparing for the qualification in September as it has proved to be an excellent way of preparing our pupils for GCSE since we started doing FCSE in 2014. So far Upper 4 have found the course to be very motivating and they have nearly all completed the first unit gaining a Distinction. There are three units to complete by May. These assessments will replace the summer examination and after completing the FCSE course, we will start preparing for GCSE. I have attached more details of what the qualification involves.

You now have the option to enter your daughter for the formal AQA FCSE qualification. There is no obligation to do this, but it might be useful to have an official qualification, particularly if your daughter is not intending to continue with a particular language to GCSE. The cost of entering your daughter for the FCSE will be £25.25 per language.

I would be grateful if you could complete the form below (even if you do not want to enter your daughter for the formal FCSE qualification) and hand it in to Mrs Wilson by Friday 25 January.

If you would like to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to contact me at school: fiona.wilson@gatewayschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Wilson

FCSE Entry

Name of Pupil: _____ Form: _____

I would like to enter my daughter for the AQA FCSE qualification in:

French

German

Spanish

I understand that £25.25 per language will be added to my school account.

Name: _____ Signed: _____



Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education

The Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education course is a Modern Foreign Languages pre-GCSE qualification. This is not going to cause your daughter a lot of stress and extra work, however. I have been involved in developing the qualification which has been running for a number of years and it is designed to be a “can do” qualification (i.e. pupils are rewarded for what they achieve as opposed to passing or failing). It has proved to be very motivating and excellent preparation for GCSE. Here is an outline of the structure of the course:

- Pupils study 3 units and are assessed in the four skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.
- Pupils can achieve a Pass, Merit and Distinction in each skill. It is likely that pupils will take all levels in Reading and Listening and the best mark will go towards the overall award of a Pass, Merit or Distinction for all 3 units of work.
- Speaking and writing assessments will be the same for all pupils as they are very flexible and pupils will be awarded a level for what they produce. These are the requirements:

Pass	Produce 4 items of information using different verb forms with an opinion.
Merit	Produce 6 items of information using different verb forms + opinion + a past or future time reference.
Distinction	Produce 8 items of information using different verb forms + opinion + a past and future time reference.

- All the work is marked internally by the teacher at Gateways and then sent to be moderated by AQA. The standardisation process is very straightforward and so we will be able to give you accurate feedback on your daughter’s progress.
- As FCSE assessments will already have taken place before the school summer examinations, there will be no examinations in French and Spanish.
- Once the FCSE work has been completed, we will start preparing for GCSE in whichever language(s) your daughter has chosen.

Headmistress: Dr T Johnson BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCE