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Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to give you an update on language lessons affecting your son/daughter at College. As you will remember, we have been trialling a single-gender teaching experiment since November. This has proved to be successful, and our first set of results show that students in both girls' and boys' classes are making progress and the behaviour in the groups has also improved.

Despite this success, this trial must now come to an end due to the recent government announcement to implement a new English Baccalaureate (EBac) standard at GCSE. The EBac is a new school measure which requires students to gain at least a C grade GCSE or IGCSE in English, two sciences, maths, history or geography and a modern foreign language.

In order to access higher education such as university, students will need to have a GCSE in at least one modern foreign language.

It is, therefore, important that we allow each student the best possible chance of meeting the EBac standard and, for this reason, the Languages department has decided to make some important changes.

Your son/daughter, who is currently in Set 1 for Languages, is being asked to make a choice of GCSE Language to study. Once this decision has been made, he/she will follow a course designed to help him/her achieve a GCSE by the end of Year 9. The choice is between GCSE French and GCSE German.

Students will be able to continue with other languages in Years 10 and 11 if desired. So, for example, if the French GCSE course is studied now, your son/daughter will be able to do German and/or Spanish from Year 10.

It should be noted that once a language preference has been given and the course started students will not be able to change their minds and will need to follow the course until the end of Year 9.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have comments or concerns, either by email: mjackson@elycollege.co.uk or the College telephone number above.

Yours faithfully

Matt Jackson
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



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