



Year 9 Newsletter

Friday 30th April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break. The students have returned for the Summer term full of energy and refreshed. I visit Year 9 lessons daily and it is absolutely wonderful to see their engagement in their lessons.

Last week during Form time we remembered Stephen Lawrence. It is unbelievable that his death took place in 1993, 28 years ago!

Here is a video clip that the girls watched on Stephen Lawrence Day to raise awareness for the work that his family continues to do here in the UK.

<https://youtu.be/tk-Tc2g5hSc>

This prompted some excellent conversations with the students which you may wish to continue at home.

Covid Test kits



We are awaiting delivery of the next round of kits. If you had previously consented for your child to receive these kits they will be given out as soon as they arrive. If you had not consented at that time, unfortunately you will have to order your home test kits yourselves from the government website.



Year 9 Parents Evening

I would like to invite you to a virtual Parents' Consultation afternoon on **Wednesday 19th May 2021** between **2.15pm to 6.15pm**. The consultations will take place online via the school's parents evening booking system. Appointments are made via the system and are for five minutes. The booking system is now open.

In order to make appointments log onto www.chsq.parentseveningsystem.co.uk (there is also a link on the School's website). Attached to this email are some simple instructions about how to log in and also what to expect on the day. You can also reach this site through **the School Gateway app**.

The appointments are very similar to a Teams or Zoom meeting. They last for five minutes per teacher and the booking system moves from one to the next seamlessly. They can be held using a computer or a mobile phone, whichever you find the most convenient. It is recommended to log in earlier on the day to check that the system is responding correctly and you can see a countdown to your first appointment. It is possible to invite a second person from a different location to any appointments you make.

If you have any questions please contact Ms Nadeem at snadeem@carshaltongirls.org.uk

Uniform

As the weather has become significantly warmer, we are sending you this reminder as to how our uniform policy should be applied correctly.

It is worth highlighting the following.

- Sunglasses are **not** permitted in school.
- The Blazer **must** be always worn.
- The school jumper is **optional** and can be left at home if your daughter wishes.
- **Only** religious necklaces should be worn. These must be out of sight, inside a jumper or blouse.

Staff members continue to check the pupil's uniform in the tutor group line-ups from and you should expect your daughter's teachers to check at the start of their lessons as well.

The policy also states that we will confiscate items such as scarves, coats, headwear and sunglasses and they will be kept safe with the Head teacher's PA until collected

by a parent. Jewellery that is confiscated is handed back to the students at the end of every half term by the Heads of Year.

Most of our students conform to all aspects of our policy and we are immensely proud of the way that they represent our school both in the community and on the school site. We hope that this gives you as a parent/carer clarity as to our expectations and thank you for your support in this matter.

As part of our changes to the school uniform policy at the start of this academic year we insisted that all students must have a sturdy, practical rucksack that was to be plain black, with no visible logos. Student compliance with this has been exceptional and we thank you for your support in this matter. In addition to this, we stated that it was our intention to phase in a compulsory school bag, with embroidered school logo. From September 2020 this was compulsory for all students in Year 7 and optional for those in Years 8 and 9.

Next academic year this phased introduction will continue. From September 2021, all students in Years 7-10 will need the embroidered school bag and must purchase this from our uniform supplier Trutex at a cost of £25. This rucksack has been chosen for its low price, practicality and comfort. The bag has lumbar support built in to the design, reflective stripes and compartments for your daughter's water bottle, booklets and school equipment.

We are reminding you of this now so that you have sufficient time to purchase the bag ready for this September coming. Trutex currently have enough rucksacks in stock for families to begin purchasing the bag now, if they so wish.

Yours sincerely,

C James

Assistant Headteacher / SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co Ordinator)

Department Focus; Modern Foreign Languages

Like so many aspects of our everyday life, learning in Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish) has been affected by lockdowns, new technologies, inability to share resources and more. However, there is a circumstance that has indirectly benefitted students of Year 9 in particular: the fact that their lessons take place in the B Corridor, which happens to be where the MFL classrooms are in our school. Hence, teachers have felt at home, with their resources at hand, in a room where they feel comfortable and with a big smile. This has had, no doubt, an impact on the lessons. However, there is another circumstance that has made the experience truly enjoyable, and that is the good behaviour, enthusiasm and interest of our students.

The start of the GCSE course in languages is not particularly easy. All three languages share the same topics, with similar units, which makes it easier for all the teachers in the department to work in a coordinated way. We started the year with vocabulary that was certainly known to the students beforehand: talking about family and friends is something that our students know how to do from Year 7, when life was still normal. However, they soon realised that the vocabulary was more complex and that the different tenses of the verbs were studied meticulously. Our students excelled despite the difficult circumstances. We soon moved into a topic completely unknown to them but quite an interesting one because *who does not live with technology nowadays?* And it is only recently that we have started our third topic. We are going back to a topic well known to all: free time activities. Most know quite a lot of vocabulary about this subject already but, you are right, we will look into it in great detail.

Whether it is at home or in class, our Year 9 students have shown motivation, excellent behaviour, a great attitude and always a big smile. The pace is just right: despite the multiple lockdowns we are where we should be. We may not have the chance to do all the activities we want to do (role plays, games and school trips) yet, but the energy is there. A bright future awaits, no doubt, for our young linguists. **Mr Castro**

A few pupils from Year 9 GCSE French, German and Spanish have put together their thoughts on their learning so far this year:

Josie P, 9SP2, Spanish - In Spanish, this half term we have been learning about Technology in everyday life. It's been really interesting and topical. We've been learning how to incorporate words relating to technology in conversations and have challenged ourselves to create our own brilliantly crafted sentences. For example, we've been using new vocabulary to express which social media platforms we like/dislike and why. Lots of new vocabulary has enabled us to have more extensive conversations with our peers in class.



In grammar, we have been looking at understanding and asking questions confidently in Spanish and practising how to use the perfect tense of regular verbs correctly. We've also enjoyed learning about how to use words such as por and para in the correct context.

Spanish has been really fun and exciting this half term. I feel that I've become more confident in speaking this fantastic language.



Iman A, 9FR1, French - I love my French lessons, they are so fun and amusing with Mrs Devaney. I really like Mrs Devaney as she is really enthusiastic and really pushes me to do my best in class wanting me to get good grades.

Mrs Devaney is the reason why French is one of my favourite lessons as she encourages me to try more and challenge myself. Our French lessons are so exciting and suspenseful as I always want to know

what we are learning next and I love using my verb wheel 😊.

Isla O, 9GE2, German – During lockdown, German lessons were so fun! There was a range of activities in a well organised booklet. Although the work was challenging it kept me occupied in the otherwise monotonous times everyone went through during lockdown. We completed online vocabulary tests to keep our vocab knowledge up. We did translations whether it was German to English or English to German it was challenging but worth it as it teaches you a lot. As we were in lockdown the speaking part of languages was a bit more difficult, but as soon as we came back to school it all came back. If you were struggling at all there was always a teacher at the end of an email keen to help you improve and answer any enquiries. I honestly did enjoy my German lessons in lockdown and would recommend the subject to anyone who enjoys it, as it is a very important subject and many universities want to see it. 'Danke, für gelesen!' (thank you for reading!)
Auf Wiedersehen!



Andzelika C, 9SP1, Spanish - For me, Spanish is essential! I am bilingual, so I'm always grateful to have the resources to further expand my vocabulary. Even in quarantine, we were able to communicate and participate in group activities with ease. An impression remained on the class that they were always encouraged to do their best! I had been provided with the core listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities for Spanish in lockdown similarly to school classes.



Therefore, Spanish (like any other language) can propel you into becoming another person. I was so infatuated with Spanish that I became a Spanish Tutor for 3 other girls (all older than me). I used the opportunity to teach them once a week for at least 30 minutes to an hour, to go over anything a regular pupil would in a Spanish class. Since I am a beginner in the language, I can go over my year 7 Spanish work as well, so it benefits me too. This accomplishment motivated me to engage in more and more house competitions. Recently, I had entered in one of the many MFL competitions, another opportunity to show my passion for Language, and achieved top place among other entries! Nelson Mandela explains why, "if you talk to a person in a language they understand, that goes to their head. If you talk to them in their language, that goes to their heart." Thank you.



Gema V, 9FR2, French – In GCSE French, we have recently been learning about Free-time activities such as music, tv, sport, cinema etc. Before lockdown we were learning about us, as individuals, as well as family and friends. We also learnt about technology in everyday life which I thought was extremely helpful as this is information that is very helpful in these days. I chose French because I have always thought that it would be nice to have another language that you could speak. Knowing another

language also benefits you as you can do a variety of things with it. For example, you could go to another country and speak the same language as well as understanding it. I also chose French because you get to learn about another country's culture which expands on your education. I want to be able to go to France and understand what they are saying. I really like how Mrs Lane teaches things, she makes her lessons very enjoyable, and she goes over things that we do not understand. She makes sure that everyone in the class is on the right track and that everyone understands it.

Mr Castro Head MFL
Miss Pigott
Mrs Lane
Mrs Lacey
Mrs Devaney

Easter Bake



Many of you participated in the Easter bake competition and it has been brilliant to see some of your creations. There are certainly some very talent young bakers out there!



It was certainly a tough job for your tutors to select just 3 to go into round 2

I am current in the process of organising Round 2 which will be just as exciting, so watch this space!



Our Golden Ticket winners are –

Demi S – 4 Golden Tickets

Mya K – 3 Golden Tickets

Congratulations, this is a huge achievement.

Keep up the hard work!

National Walking Month



As we approach the end of April and look forward to warmer weather in May you may be interested to know that the month of May is the celebration of National Walking

Walking is good for our minds, our bodies and our neighbourhoods and has been a lifeline during the past year, helping people stay active and connected. That's why we want everyone to keep going and to **#WalkThisMay!**

Take a look at the website for further details and more idea on how you can enjoy walking in the great outdoors –

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/national-walking-month>

#WALKINGFROMHOME



We've been #WalkingFromHome all year.

Check out our resources and activities to help keep your daily walk fresh and interesting.

#WALKINGFROMHOME

FAMILY FUN



For teachers, parents and families looking for inspiration and ideas to help keep children active, we've created some free resources and activities.

Keep the kids entertained this National Walking Month!

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

HOME EXERCISE



If you're self-isolating, here are some ways you can still stay active in the home.

WALKING IN LATER LIFE

