



**STOUR VALLEY**  
— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

27 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you regarding your child's French lessons. We currently offer both French and Spanish in Years 7–9 and to GCSE and we are looking to change this.

We are of the firm view that languages are a vital part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Unfortunately, like many schools, we are facing challenges with staff recruitment and retention in this area. We are very pleased with the recent changes to the specification for GCSE Modern Languages and we would like to ensure that all our students have an equal opportunity to gain a solid foundation in one language.

We have been working closely with Beeleigh Languages Hub (a government-funded initiative to improve outcomes Beeleigh Language Hub - Anglo European School ([aessex.co.uk](http://aessex.co.uk))) to look at how we can give our students the best experience and greatest opportunity for success in languages. We have come to the decision that by focusing on one language, Spanish, we can achieve this. Therefore, from Monday 1 July, all students studying French will transition to studying Spanish.

We genuinely do not believe that your child will be disadvantaged by this decision and believe that they will benefit from the enhanced consistency of delivery. There are schools who have students study a variety of languages in Key Stage 3 before specialising at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) and we have carefully developed an accelerated plan which will start within the next week where students will study the basics of the Spanish language. They will find they are able to use the skills and techniques already developed in their French lessons and begin the transfer to Spanish. Many of the skills already developed will be able to be transferred as the two languages are so similar, both being derived from Latin.

We are also delighted to be able to offer the opportunity for your child to take part in an enrichment activity during the Autumn term to launch into Spanish. This will take place during the school day. Further details of this will follow when we have received confirmation.

Once the decision was made, we felt that acting sooner rather than later would be of greater benefit to the students. Should you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Magowan.

Yours faithfully

Nick Mussett  
Deputy Headteacher

Lisa Magowan  
Head of Languages

