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Dear Year 9 Students, Parents and Carers,

5 Good Reasons to Take French at GCSE

We are very pleased with the way that Year 9 have started in French, and are equally encouraged to be having so many positive discussions about GCSE French next year.

As part of the Government's EBacc ambition, schools are encouraged to engage up to 75% of students in taking a language course at GCSE. Therefore, we felt it might be helpful to share some of the persuasive reasons for continuing with French and why students should choose French as one of their options (information taken from: <https://www.schoolguide.co.uk>).

Reason 1: 'I want a job in tech but employers want me to speak a second language'

This is something we often hear among students. It might seem counter-intuitive but there is a huge demand for linguists in tech. Billion-dollar companies Duolingo and Quizlet are just a handful of giants that recruit translators, proof-readers and content creators with more competitors joining the scene. Have you considered that programming is also a language?

Reason 2: The TV translator is 'on demand'

Covid-19 made 2020 the year of streaming and there has been a huge spike in the need for translation work such as subtitling and dubbing. German and French were the most in-demand languages for tech jobs in Ireland. Professor Andy Way, of Dublin City University School of Computing says: "Many tech jobs see a second language as a desirable skill, putting you ahead of some of the competition."

Reason 3: Languages give you the edge

"Language skills are very sought after by employers," says economist Pawel Adrjan. GCSE or A-Level qualifications in languages open doors not only for traditional careers, but also in digital marketing, social media and sales.

Reason 4: Languages open up the world

Learning any language can make us more successful working abroad and builds resilience and agility. It provides 'cultural capital'. Heather Morgan, international economist and serial entrepreneur, describes languages in tech companies: "It is also really helpful if you're thinking about changing careers or want to go to a company that's in a new space, which many tech start-ups are."

Reason 5: Employers know language students are quick learners

Languages give you an edge because they are academically rigorous and challenging to learn and therefore not mastered by many. In applying ourselves to a second language, we improve our aptitude for study itself, especially our listening and communication abilities. When you learn one language, your brain is hardwired to those specific skill sets and so the next language actually becomes that much easier to absorb - your grey matter is actually just built to learn yet another new language.

When the Year 9 Options process is launched next term, you will see that the majority of pupils are required to continue French as part of their GCSE curriculum.

Students wishing to find out more about the GCSE course and how to best prepare themselves for GCSE success should speak to either myself or Miss Dunhill and we will be happy to help, or feel free to contact me at JForster@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Ms J Forster
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