



CATERHAM SCHOOL

17 October 2011

To Parents and Guardians of Fifth Year pupils

Dear Parents and Guardians

Modern Languages GCSE Information

Over the course of this year, pupils will be sitting a number of exam components which taken together will comprise the work required for a language GCSE. Now that pupils have been set their first controlled assignment, I thought it would be useful for you to have some further information so that you are aware of what is required of your son or daughter at various stages this year and so that you can support them through what will undoubtedly be a very busy period.

The language GCSE falls into two main parts:

CONTROLLED TASKS:

Throughout the year pupils are required to take controlled assignments in both Speaking and Writing. These assignments are official public exams and together make up 60% of the overall mark. The best two tasks for Speaking and Writing will be submitted to the exam board at the end of the Spring Term.

Please see below the provisional schedule of when these assignments take place.

The dates given supersede any already in the calendar.

The tasks are based on the work that has recently preceded it and it is therefore essential that pupils organise their work effectively and submit it for marking as instructed throughout the course. Without this preparation it is extremely difficult to score well on the tasks.

LISTENING AND READING EXAMS:

All pupils will be entered for Listening and Reading exams in January. These two papers constitute 40% of the overall mark. There is also a sitting of the Listening and Reading exams in the summer term. The Departmental policy is that all pupils who do not get the maximum UMS score (60/60) in the January exams will re-sit. In this way pupils can be certain that they have done all they can to maximise their grade.

Whilst I realise that this is quite a lot of information to take in all at once, I hope that this will be a useful reference as the year progresses.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with the relevant language teacher.

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Yours sincerely

Simon Bird

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SCHEDULE OF GCSE MODERN LANGUAGES ASSIGNMENTS 2011 - 2012

Autumn Term

SPEAKING 1

Task set: *week beginning 3 October*

Task taken: *week beginning 10 October*

WRITING 1

Task set: *week beginning 10 October*

Task taken: *week beginning 17 October*

SPEAKING 2 (provisional)

Task set: *week beginning 28 November*

Task taken: *week beginning 5 December*

WRITING 2 (provisional)

Task set: *week beginning 5 December*

Task taken: *week beginning 12 December*

Spring Term

SPEAKING 3 (provisional)

Task set: *week beginning 6 February*

Task taken: *week beginning 20 February*

WRITING 3 (provisional)

Task set: *week beginning 20 February*

Task taken: *week beginning 27 February*

SPEAKING 4 (provisional)

Task set: *week beginning 19 March*

Task taken: *week beginning 26 March*

WRITING 4 (provisional)

Task set: *week beginning 19 March*

Task taken: *week beginning 26 March*