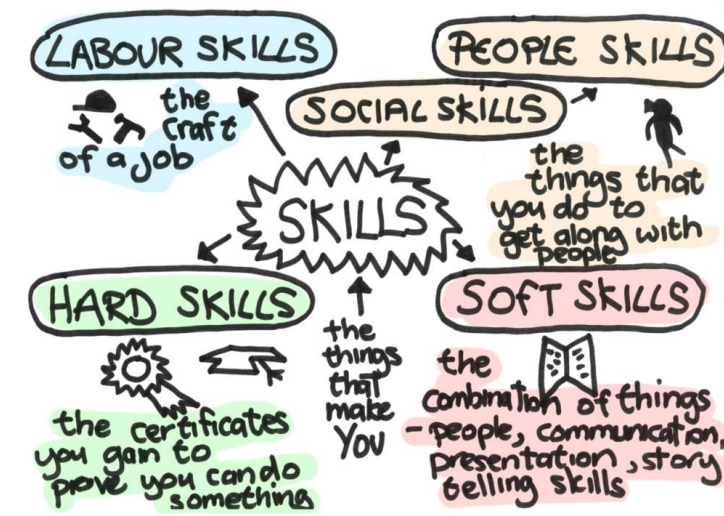


The Guided Choice Process

The Guided Choice process begins in the January of Year 9 and is an important time for all Year 9 students at The Joseph Whitaker School. They make decisions over their Key Stage 4 guided choices and these decisions can have a real impact on their future career pathways.

We want our students to have the correct mix of qualifications and opportunities to develop those soft skills that are so important for future employment. This is why we encourage our students to opt for subjects which are challenging, achievable and enjoyable and will give a broad and balanced curriculum.



Each year we develop our guided choices process to offer the most relevant subjects to suit the abilities and interests of the particular year group. National changes to qualifications are also reflected in our offer but primarily we are focussed on giving our students the opportunity to gain qualifications and skills that will maximise their future prospects.

Our students are placed on one of three academic pathways:

Academic Enhanced – a pathway which offers additional support in English and Maths

Academic Blended – a pathway which offers a diverse mix of qualifications suitable for all students

Academic Plus – a pathway designed to ensure all students study a foreign language and develop the additional skills that go alongside language learning.

All students will follow a core curriculum comprised of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, History and/or Geography and Life Skills and Moral Issues (PSHCE, Careers and RE). Alongside their core subjects, students are able to select additional subjects for study through Year 10 and Year 11.

We will do everything we can to support students and parents so that appropriate choices are made. We endeavour to provide students with their first choices, however, this is not always possible.

Information on each of the option choices available is contained within the booklets on this page.

For further information on the guided choice process please contact your child's form tutor, or email guidedchoices@josephwhitaker.org

What subjects can I pick from for my remaining 2 or 3 options?

Technology – Resistant Materials
Or Graphics

Business

Computer Studies (**High level of numeracy and literacy needed**)

Music

Art

PE

Philosophy and Ethics

Film Studies

Drama

Health and Soacial
Hospitality and Catering
NON-GCSE subjects
NOT available to Plus Pathways

Spanish and/ or French

Triple Science
This means you will
do 15hours of
science in two weeks

Why study languages?

At The Joseph Whitaker School, we value the importance of languages and strongly encourage our students to continue to study French and Spanish and KS4 and 5. We know that many teenagers may not see the immediate advantages of languages, so we dedicate some of the options process on highlighting the effects of languages on future careers, academic studies and indeed, the brain!

To preserve the academic curriculum and in recognition of the high status given to modern foreign languages by Universities and employers we advise all students capable of achieving well to choose to study French and/or Spanish at GCSE. Choosing one language would still mean that your child is able to select two other courses (in addition to their language choice), choosing both languages would mean one free choice. Our Academic Plus pathway ensures all Academic Plus Students study one or both languages to GCSE level as we believe this will open doors to them in the future in either university life or future job opportunities.

Below are a number of links on the various advantages of learning languages.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/why-being-bilingual-is-good-for-your-brain/p0gl245p>

<https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2022/04/29/learning-language-changes-your-brain/>

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/research-practice/why-study-languages/>

<https://universeofmemory.com/benefits-of-language-learning/>

I like languages, but I don't want to be a translator or teacher?

After university, graduates who have studied languages go into a wide range of jobs, including:

- Business Services 26.9%
- Banking / Finance 13.1%
- Wholesale / Retail 11.8%
- Manufacturing 10.1%
- Public Administration 7.9%
- Community / Social Services 7.7%
- Education 6.5%
- Transport / Communications 5.7%
- Hotels & Restaurants 3.7%
- International Organisations 0.2%
- Other Areas 2.5%

Languages have definitely helped us get to where we are today...

77 % of British exporters believe they lose business because they can't speak other languages.

In fact, research suggests the UK is missing out on contracts worth up to £21 billion a year because of the lack of language skills in the workforce.

Surveys show that 60% of UK employers are dissatisfied with the foreign language skills of school leavers and more than 30% of UK businesses want people specifically for their language skills.



WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?

INCREASE AWARENESS OF OTHER PEOPLE & CULTURES



TRANSFORMS YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCE



INCREASE EMPLOYABILITY

ADVANCE YOUR ENGLISH SKILLS BY LEARNING HOW LANGUAGES WORK



APPRECIATE INTERNATIONAL ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE



SEE THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

OPEN UP THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING & WORKING ABROAD



IT'S FUN



10

REASONS TO STUDY LANGUAGES



1. CONNECTIONS

Being able to communicate with someone in his or her language is an incredible gift. Bilinguals have the unique opportunity to communicate with a wider range of people in their personal and professional lives.

2. CONFIDENCE

Learning a language means putting yourself out there and moving out of your comfort zone. Boosting your confidence and generating an amazing sense of accomplishment when conversing with someone in their native language.

3. CAREER ADVANCES

Language skills can really help your CV to stand out from the crowd. It is one of the most important things employers look for.



4. PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Language Learning boosts your memory and your logical faculties, which are directly linked to your problem-solving skills this means that language learning helps you recall information faster and identify problems more quickly.

5. BOOST YOUR BRAIN

The language center of the brain is so flexible. Learning a second language could help develop new areas of your mind and strengthen your brain's natural ability to focus.

6. MAKING FRIENDS

Language is a vital part of human connection. Being able to speak multiple languages means you can befriend people from different cultures and expand your friendship circle.

7. CONNECT WITH OTHER CULTURES

Communicating with other languages helps you to appreciate the traditions, religions, arts, and history of other cultures encourages understanding, promoting greater bonds of empathy and acceptance of others.

8. EXPLORE YOUR OWN CITY

Many cities have different cultural pockets for different ethnicities to congregate. Now you can check out what they have to offer and interact with them on a more personal level with people.

9. SEE NEW PLACES

Travelling as a speaker of the local language can revolutionise your trip abroad. Language to navigate outside the tourist bubble and interact with the place and its people.

10. SCHOLARSHIPS

If you're looking to pursue any form of study abroad, many universities of merit offer scholarships to individuals who are fluent in the languages of that country.

