



December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach a crucial phase in your child's GCSE language assessment, we would like to provide you with important details regarding the speaking exam, which is a significant component of their overall evaluation.

The speaking exam is scheduled to take place during the week starting 22 April, with a preliminary mock exam at the end of January. This assessment is a vital part of the GCSE language curriculum, accounting for 25% of the total grade, alongside writing, reading, and listening components.

The Speaking Assessment is structured into three tasks: a role play, a photo card and a general conversation. The duration and requirements for each task vary between the Foundation and Higher tiers, as outlined in the table below:

Aspect	Foundation	Higher
Preparation Time (mins)	12	12
Exam Duration (mins)	7-9	10-12
Role Play Card (mins)	2	2
Photo Card (mins)	2	3
Discussion (mins)	3-5	5-7

To aid your child's preparation, they have access to role play and photo card booklets with exemplar answers on Google Classroom. We strongly encourage them to practise these tasks, taking note of key vocabulary and phrases.

The general conversation holds significant weight, contributing 50% to the overall grade, while the role play and photo card tasks each account for 25%. Students have received a booklet containing potential questions for the general conversation, and it is imperative that they prepare comprehensive answers demonstrating proficiency in using past, present, and future tenses, expressing opinions, providing justifications, and utilising complex structures.

The general conversation booklet also includes exemplar answers to guide your child in understanding the expected level of proficiency. Additionally, students can select one theme to prepare for, with questions from an undisclosed theme posed during the exam itself (three themes in total).

Your support in ensuring your child practises these skills and learns their responses is invaluable. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We appreciate your collaboration in preparing your child for success in the upcoming language exams.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Manns".

Mrs S Manns

Head of Modern Foreign Languages