

Government National EBacc Ambition

The government introduced an “ambition” to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.

The Ebacc is:

- English language and literature
- maths
- the sciences
- geography or history
- a language

We share the governments’ ambition for more students to study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE. At The Kimberley School we want more students to want to choose to study a language through to GCSE. In June 2019 governors agreed our approach to this:

At The Kimberley School we will:

- continue to sustain the teaching of three languages (French, German and Spanish) within our curriculum whilst it remains economically viable to do so.
- continue to offer a full Key Stage 3 language curriculum to the vast majority (over 90%) of students, only withdrawing students when their literacy skills are an inhibitor to accessing the languages curriculum.
- continue to ensure that all students who choose to study a languages GCSE can do so.
- continue to identify students during the Year 9 options process who languages teachers believe will be successful in a languages GCSE; allowing students who do not wish to do so to opt out with the support of their parents.
- review and revitalise the KS3 languages curriculum (starting with Year 7 in September 2019) in line with our whole school priority to do so to ensure that we are getting the balance right between preparing students for GCSE and enjoyment of learning a language.
- explore opportunities to expand the already excellent residential/trips ran by languages staff so that more students during KS3 have the opportunity to participate in activities that expose them to different languages and different cultures.

We believe that this is the right approach. We want students to want to study languages and not to be compelled to do so. Our experience is that compelling students to study languages at GCSE can be counterproductive.

It is our view that this is in line with the Ofsted framework which sets out that:

“At the heart of an effective key stage 4 curriculum is a strong academic core: the EBacc. The government’s response to its EBacc consultation, published in July 2017, confirmed that the large majority of pupils should be expected to study the EBacc. It is therefore the government’s national ambition that 75% of Year 10 pupils in state-funded mainstream schools should be starting to study EBacc GCSE courses nationally by 2022 (taking their examinations in 2024), rising to 90% by 2025 (taking their examinations in 2027). This is an ambition, and not a target for any individual school. Inspectors will not make a judgement about the quality of education based solely or primarily on its progress towards the EBacc ambition. Nevertheless, it is an important factor in understanding a school’s level of ambition for its pupils. It is, therefore, important that inspectors

understand what schools are doing to prepare for this to be achieved, and they should take those preparations into consideration when evaluating the intent of the school's curriculum."

Our proposed approach will mean that we are working proactively during Key Stage 3 to increase the number of students who choose to study a GCSE language. It also means that should the governments' ambition become a target for all schools then we are ready to achieve this.

June 2019