



16 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

At AHS, we plan to enter all GCSE students for any language they study at Higher Tier. You may know that all the exam boards have alternative assessment tiers, namely Foundation and Higher. Whilst written with teachers in mind, the full specifications and content are publicly available on the Edexcel website. You can find this information here: [French](#), [German](#), [Spanish](#). This is a link to a tiering [factsheet](#) designed to help teachers help students make the correct decisions.

Based on a student's progress through the courses and mock exams, we may offer them the opportunity to adjust their Summer 2026 entries. This will apply to only a few students whom we will contact individually, after their mocks, to recommend any changes. This letter is to make you aware that there are alternative routes and to ensure you are informed of the process and implications. We did raise the issue with some students in the summer of Year 10, after the exams, and do so again if necessary after written assessments this term. Occasionally students/parents seem to be concerned about the word "Foundation" appearing on their exam results. We don't feel that this should be a factor, but please rest assured that it will not appear on their exam results.

We anticipate that the majority of AHS students will take a language at Higher Tier as planned. Students who follow our recommendation to do Foundation will continue in their timetabled MFL lessons. They will receive alternative revision resources and additional support. Ultimately the decision is the student's, we advise, but don't make the decision for them.

If you would like to discuss any details further, please contact the relevant subject teacher or Head of Department.

Yours sincerely,
Ewen Baird
Head of MFL