

21 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Community Languages at Newstead Wood School

Within our school community, over 60 different languages are spoken. At Newstead Wood School, we believe that it is important to recognise this, as well as to provide additional opportunities to students who can speak/write in another language. This year, we are offering the opportunity for students in Year 9 and above to sit qualifications in a range of community languages that they do not study at Newstead.

Which community languages are available at GCSE / A level?

The languages available (with their corresponding specification code) are as follows:

AQA					
Bengali	GCSE (8638) A Level (7637)	German	GCSE (8662) A Level (7662)	Polish	GCSE (8688) A Level (7687)
Biblical Hebrew	A Level (7677)	Italian	GCSE (8633)	Spanish	GCSE (8692) A Level (7692)
Mandarin Chinese	GCSE (8673)	Modern Hebrew	GCSE (8678) A Level (7672)	Urdu	GCSE (8648)
French	GCSE (8652) A Level (7652)	Panjabi	GCSE (8683) A Level (7682)		
Pearson EdExcel					
Arabic	A Level (9AA0) GCSE (1AA0)	Italian	A Level (9IN0) GCSE (1IN0)	Swahili	IGCSE (4SW1)
Bangla	IGCSE (4BA0)	Japanese	A Level (9JA0) GCSE (1JA0)	Tamil	IGCSE (4TA1)
Biblical Hebrew	GCSE (1BH0)	Persian	A Level (9PN0) GCSE (1PN0)	Turkish	A Level (9TU0) GCSE (1TU0)
Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese)	A Level (9CN0) GCSE (1CN0)	Portuguese	A Level (9PG0) GCSE (1PG0)	Urdu	A Level (9UR0) GCSE (1UR0)
Greek	A Level (9GK0) GCSE (1GK0)	Russian	A Level (9RU0) GCSE (1RU0)		
Gujarati	A Level (9GU0) GCSE (1GU0)	Sinhala	IGCSE (4SI1)		

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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Newstead Wood School
Avebury Road
Orpington
Kent

t: 01689 853626
e: office@newsteadwood.co.uk
w: newsteadwood.co.uk

OCR					
Classical Greek	A Level (H444) GCSE (J292)	Latin	A Level (H443) GCSE (J282)		

What will students have to do?

Depending on the specification (available on AQA/Pearson Edexcel/OCR websites), they will be examined in most or all of the 4 skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The specification will state which skills will be examined, as well as the topics of study. It is vital that students can write/speak at length over a range of topics to achieve the highest grades. It is important that your child is capable of fully accessing the exams. Looking at the past papers on the exam board websites will give you and your child an idea of whether they will be able to cope with the examination.

What next?

We cannot enter a student for the exam without authorisation from a parent/carer. To enter a student for examinations this academic year (Summer 2026), please complete the Microsoft Form [here](#) by **Friday 9 January 2026**. This will also give us ample time to arrange for a speaker for the speaking exam (where applicable and additional charges will apply). If your child is not ready to sit the exam this academic year, we will run the same application process every year, so you can inform us in the year you wish your child to sit the exam.

After this date, the Exams Office will be in contact to confirm exam fees that will need to be paid via WisePay. To ensure your exam entry, **we will need the completed online form with full payment**. Following this, you will receive a statement of entry. If the candidate withdraws from the exam after the confirmed entry date no refund will be issued. Candidate exam timetables will be available via Arbor. Students are welcome to seek general support for these exams (e.g. what to expect, length of exams etc) from myself in my office or L22.

We must stress that we cannot offer tuition in any community language, although there is some support for languages within the MFL department (some European languages, Chinese and Japanese). For other languages, it would be beneficial if someone can support them at home. It is highly recommended to complete some exam practice using past exam papers on the exam board website.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at shau@newsteadwood.co.uk. Your child is also welcome to email or speak to me directly.

Yours sincerely,



Miss S Hau
Head of MFL