Dear Parent/Carer,

**National 5 French/Spanish/Mandarin Talking and Writing Exam Preparation**

You will be aware that your son/daughter will sit a Talking and a Writing exam as part of the final French and/or Spanish / Mandarin NAT 5 exam. I am writing to inform you about what these elements of the exam involve, what pupils should be doing at home and how you can support your son/daughter.

The Writing exam consists of two parts: a predicted section, where the task is the same in every paper, and a small unpredicted section, where the task is different each time. This exam counts for 12.5% of each candidate’s overall grade. Pupils have the use of a dictionary for this exam so we would encourage all pupils to purchase a dictionary and become used to working with it prior to the final SQA exam.

All N5 pupils have a corrected draft of their preparation work for the predicted part of the exam, and this must simply be learned well. Pupils have been working on this since the middle of S3 and they should be learning this on a regular basis. All pupils also have help sheets containing useful phrases for the unpredicted part of the exam. We are working on these in class each week and your son/daughter should be quite familiar with the contents by now. Regular homework exercises based on these sheets are being set and then tested on a weekly basis.

The final Talking exams will take place during the last two weeks in February. A great deal of time in class is being devoted to preparing for the Talking exams and preparation work and learning is being set as weekly homework. The Talking exam counts for 25% of each candidate’s overall grade, so it is imperative that all pupils are fully prepared and have learnt all of their prepared material. Every pupil has had the opportunity for individual practice with his/her teacher and usually any difficulties can be resolved with a rigorous study plan, which must include preparation for the conversation element of the exam as well as the presentation.

I am sure you will want to discuss these elements of the NAT 5 course with your son/daughter. High attainment in the French, Mandarin and Spanish Writing and Talking exams is very achievable, but consistent effort in homework tasks and regular revision on an ongoing basis is vital. It is our desire to ensure that your son/daughter attains his/her maximum potential in the May examinations. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Z Nicklin

PT Modern Languages