



6 July 2021

Dear Parent

### Modern Foreign Languages - Mock Speaking Examinations

Your child will soon be undertaking examinations in the speaking element of their French and/or Spanish GCSE course on the topics facilitated during KS4. We would appreciate if your child could present us with their speaking booklet every lesson so their teacher can give more feedback.

Preparation has been and is taking place in lessons, with some additional homework tasks to support this. The team provided your child with a speaking booklet that contains not only the structure per themes but also some tips and Target Language to help them phrasing their answers. This practice booklet will become invaluable over the next months for your child to do some further practice.

Please note that due to the disruption caused by COVID 19, this first round of speaking mocks is a reduced version of the GCSE exam and the duration and format have been adapted to the needs of our students. We strongly believe, giving them the opportunity to gain practice in certain elements of the test, will build up their confidence levels for next year.

Therefore, the format of the exams is as follows:

- The first round of Mock Speaking exams will take place on **the week commencing the 12 of July 2021**. Your child has been given a specific time during the day to attend and they are also posted in Satchel One, for those who did not attend the lesson when published. The class teacher will shortly display in their classrooms. Depending on the tier taken, the duration of the test varies however, they will have 3 minutes preparation time to write their answers for the photo card, of which they are entitled to read aloud for the test.
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 mins at Foundation Tier; 3 mins at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (2–3 mins at Foundation Tier; 3–4 mins at Higher Tier).

At the end of the photo card, your child will be asked to give the notes produced in preparation time and move on to the General Conversation without a visual aid.

The students have had opportunity of choosing the two modules they feel more comfortable with for General conversation, so, due to COVID, we wanted to give students the chance to give them control over the topics /units covered.

The days of the exams vary depending on who is their class teacher:

- Monday 12 July: Spanish groups taught by both Miss Delgado and Mrs Hermida Vidal
- Tuesday 13 July: French group taught by Mr O'Boyle
- Wednesday 14 July: Spanish group taught by Miss Mora



### What are we doing to help?

- Intervention and Homework club (this last one as a drop in), have been running since September. The class teachers have analysed your child's performance and are providing them with a range of activities to improve in all skills.
- Regular quizzes to ensure students are memorising and recalling language over time.

On top of this, and so your child becomes confident and calm to their test, the department has offered to do some speaking practise after school (Depending on availability), since the students have been informed to come to see us for support. During that time, they can bring their speaking booklet and rehearse, practise and get some extra assistance.

### What can you do to help?

Even if you are not familiar with the language, there are a number of ways in which you can help:

- You can listen to their speaking to ensure they are practising regularly. They should be speaking from memory (ie. not reading from their written piece) little by little.
- If you or your child wish, they can record themselves on their phones and bring the files so we can help them improving their pronunciation.
- Help them see where they have made mistakes by comparing their practice piece with the original. The more practice they do, the better. However, they should not sound rehearsed but feel comfortable speaking and interacting.
- Encourage them to concentrate on the things they are more likely to get wrong rather than repeatedly practising things they already know well. One of the most common reasons for low marks is the lack of challenge because of fear of getting it wrong.
- Encourage them to come along to the sessions offered in order to get the maximum support available from a language specialist.

If you have any concerns regarding these exams, please do not hesitate to contact me on [p.hermida\\_vidal@theacademycarlton.org](mailto:p.hermida_vidal@theacademycarlton.org)

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hermida Vidal  
**Head of Modern Foreign Languages**