

20th January Languages Cluster meeting

1. Introductions and welcome
2. Exam updates for different boards and how we are responding
* AQA exams cancelled and replaced by CAGS, CIE exams still scheduled to take place, which adds complications.
* evidence gathering: trying to establish data points for Year 11s and 13s
* gathering written work for each student as evidence, but also recognising that this is hard without much guidance from Ofqual as to what evidence will be considered
1. Supporting Year 11 and 13
* some really struggling with motivation
* continuing as normal at King’s for Year 11, as exams still taking place, but also trying to gather evidence at the same time. For Year 13 covering the course as normal in anticipation of mock exams next term, which will act as a data point (whether online or offline remains to be seen)
1. Evidence gathering
* St Anselm’s have had mocks recently, so have useful data which can be used. King’s had mini exam session in November and mocks are scheduled for after half-term. On top of this, aiming to gather evidence for each pupil – King’s aiming for one piece of written work for each pupil from each half term. Once Ofqual guidance is released, we can then tailor our approach accordingly.
1. Pros/cons of different exam boards
* King’s hoping to move across to AQA or Edexcel GCSE in future. St Anselm’s have a lot of experience in teaching AQA. Pros: lots of resources available, good support out there, a fair and accessible exam. Recommend Studio and Dynamo for French, and Viva for Spanish. Possible cons: a bit harder than in the past. Not any tangible difference between AQA and Edexcel on the whole, but AQA seem to have better infrastructure in place.
1. Tips and tricks for online teaching, resources to be recommended
* Mentimeter – good whole-class brainstorming tool
* Spiral – good for formative assessment and interactive learning
* Blooket – combines learning with games and activities
* ThisisLanguage – offering free subscription to schools during lockdown
* Teachit languages – some free resources, others through subscription only
1. Setting the next meeting
* I suggest Wednesday 24th Feb
1. AOB