An Academy of

The Moor, Melbourn, Royston, Herts SG8 6EF
(01763) 223400

office@melbournvc.org
www.melbournvc.org

Principal: Rachel Spencer
BA Hons, MCCT

MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE
EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY

Dear Parents and Carers

Language Curriculum Offer – September 2025

I am delighted to write to you with some exciting news regarding our language's curriculum. From September, we are pleased to confirm that, due to being fully staffed in our languages department, we are once again able to offer Spanish across all year groups. We are also pleased to introduce new additions to our languages team. Mrs Chan will be joining Mrs Ni in our Mandarin department, and Miss Harnwell will be joining Mrs Stanley in our Spanish department. Within our Trust, we are fortunate to have further Spanish expertise from Mrs Hawkes and Mrs Spencer, who may also be supporting our provision.
Please find below a breakdown of our languages provision for each year group, along with important information and actions required for current Year 8 and Year 9 students.

Year 7 in September 2025
All students will study both Mandarin and Spanish, receiving 3 hours of each language per fortnight initially.

- In December, students will make a mini-options choice to continue with **either Spanish or Mandarin (MEP)** only.

- Students who wish to continue with Mandarin will follow the **Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP)** and will be required to sit an entrance test. Students will have 6 lessons a fortnight within their timetable plus 2 additional lessons after school.

- Spanish will continue as a standalone language for those who choose it and students will have 6 lessons a fortnight.

Year 8 in September 2025 (current Year 7)
- Students **currently in the Mandarin MEP group** will remain in that group and **do not** need to complete a form.

- All **other students** must choose between:

  o **Spanish** (6 hours a fortnight), or

  o **Mandarin (MEP)** (6 hours a fortnight plus 2 additional lessons a fortnight after school.

- There is no option of both languages.

- If students wish to continue with Mandarin, this will be following the MEP programme as a second MEP group. Please note, if Mandarin MEP is over-subscribed, we will use results from the original MEP entry test to prioritise places.

Year 9 in September 2025 (Current Year 8)

- Students **currently in the Mandarin MEP group** will remain in that group and **do not** need to complete a form.

- All **other students** must choose between:

  - **Spanish** (6 hours a fortnight), or

  - **Mandarin (non-MEP)** (6 hours a fortnight).

- We will not be offering a second MEP group in this year group.

Current Year 7 and 8 actions

To enable us to finalise our timetable, we ask that you submit your language preference by **Monday 9th June**. **Please follow this link here.** If your child has a specific reason for continuing with Mandarin or switching to Spanish, please include this in your submission. In the event of oversubscription, these reasons may help us allocate places fairly.

We would like to thank you for your patience and support as we worked towards reinstating Spanish as part of our curriculum. We have listened carefully to feedback from parents and carers and are pleased to be able to offer a broader and more flexible Languages provision for our students.

We are aware that several students in the current Year 7 cohort narrowly missed out on a place in the MEP this year. We are now in a position to offer places to those students from September.

Please note:

- The **MEP programme** will be the **only option for Mandarin** in **Year 8 next year** and for **Year 7 after Christmas**.

- There is an expectation for students learning either language to **commit to regular vocabulary practice at home**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Ms Cooke
Associate Assistant Headteacher