KGGS Governors visit form. Please complete and return to the clerk to governors

Link Governor	Jo Green		
Faculty / Member of staff Visited	Carine Soudanne, Head of Faculty, Modern Foreign Languages	Date	15th January 2020
Purpose of Visit	MFL Link Governor visit		

When I previously visited Carine last January, there were concerns about the marking of MFL GCSEs and that this was having a negative impact on the uptake of MFL subjects at GCSE, with numbers declining nationally. It has since been announced that the grade boundaries and mark scheme will be revised this year, and it is expected that, on average, students will benefit by approximately half a grade. This is very pleasing news, both for the continued attractiveness of the subjects as GCSE options, and for the current Y11 cohort, whose general performance in the mock examinations predicts marks fairly close to the former grade boundaries. The revised marking this summer might help to place a large proportion of them firmly in the middle of a grade.

At present, the department is expecting a 100% pass rate in all three languages, but mock results indicate that the proportion of grade 7-9 will fall. At the time of my visit, all of the heads of faculty were in the process of meeting with the headteacher to discuss mock examinations results, amongst other matters. Over the coming weeks, the department will identify a small number of girls who might benefit from being entered for foundation level in their languages. There is no suggestion that large numbers of girls are performing under target, and progress being made by current year 10 indicates that results are expected to recover next year.

Staffing in the department continues to pose some complications. Two full time members of staff have recently submitted requests for part time hours from September. Carine is now beginning conversations to see whether these requests can be accommodated. At present, there are fewer classes with shared teaching this year, but having more part time staff would have an impact on this next year.

With initial GCSE options forms returned, it appears that 30-40 girls have chosen German (two groups), 30-40 have chosen Spanish (2 groups) and 90 have opted for French (4 groups). Carine noted that five years ago, the KS3 French course was revised, which led to a decline in numbers choosing French for GCSE for two years. These numbers have now recovered. Having followed the same process with German last year, it was expected that GCSE German numbers would begin to recover this year. At present, numbers are lower than expected and Carine will be looking at this further.

It is very pleasing that the school will be able to offer all three languages again at A level this year. Having considered removing A level Spanish from the curriculum last year, it is always a concern that numbers will be insufficient for all three languages to run.

The department has two assistants this year, one for French and one for Spanish. It is likely at present that numbers will always be sufficient to employ a French assistant. It would be ideal to have one to support each language, but Carine in considering rotating the appointment of an assistant for German and Spanish, so that all GCSE and A level students benefit from at least one year with a native speaking assistant.

I would like to thank Carine for inviting me in to school and look forward to my next visit.

Signed _____Jo Green_____ Date _____27/01/2020_____