



# SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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Diocese of Liverpool



Diocese of Chester

SWO/CO/ADMIN/ALLDEPTS/MFL/EALGAMINGLETTER

16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Earlier this week, myself, Mrs Woolley and Mr Leung held a short meeting with your son/daughter and the other Cantonese speakers in Year 9 and 10. The aim of the meeting was to inform them that unfortunately as a school, we cannot enter the students for their Cantonese GCSE from now onwards.

We are in a very privileged position to have such a high number of Cantonese students in our school. However, due to these high numbers of students, it is not appropriate for us to enter them for a GCSE language exam which was not originally intended for them to take. The GCSE Cantonese exam is designed for non-native speakers and to enter such a large number of students for this exam would be classified as "gaming the system", which essentially means trying to maximise the school's examination results. Furthermore, we can only offer examinations in the subjects we teach as part of our Key Stage 4 curriculum. The two foreign languages taught are French and Spanish.

This will also apply to other students who are native speakers of other foreign languages, such as Polish, Urdu and Romanian, for example.

If you would like your son/daughter to sit the GCSE Cantonese examination, it may be possible for you to enter them as an external candidate at another examination centre. Please contact Miss Jane Morris for further information about this: [jmorris@boteler.org.uk](mailto:jmorris@boteler.org.uk).

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Woolley if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Koltan

**Senior Assistant Headteacher**



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