

Catherine Gregory (Lead for MFL, Curriculum Division, Department for Education): The Next Steps in Enhancing Teaching and Learning Outcomes in MFL provided clear information from Government that the Ebacc will continue to be a focus for the DFE and MFL will become a focus for Ofsted in School Inspections. Catherine acknowledged the *'very difficult transition'* from the outgoing GCSE to the new terminal assessments but said that overall results had not decreased, and it was clear that the *'reformed and more rigorous GCSEs' were a success'*. Catherine raised Damian Hinds MP's interest in Edtech solutions for MFL stating the success of apps; such as Memrise, had caught the Minister's attention and he was keen to support solutions to assist in language learning as well as finding realistic solutions to assist MFL teachers' workload especially in the area of marking.

MFL pedagogy hubs will appear; these will be Centres of Excellence and successful schools have been invited to become lead schools. MFL Hubs will provide support for up to nine other schools and will become operational by December. This is a new development.

Catherine was asked specifically if there would be a Government backed initiative such as STEM to promote MFL more. Catherine answered that the Government was happy with the Ebacc and would continue with this venture and also it was deemed that *'languages did not have as much earning potential as STEM so there will not be the same commitment from Government'*. Asked also was if the Government had plans to make MFL compulsory to increase uptake and to ensure that A Level and University applications for language course increased and did not decline further. This was dismissed with the statement that the DFE believes that students *'forced [to take a language] meant grades were lower, our approach is optional to build up the quality of MFL teaching and a love of languages amongst students'*. Regarding community language learning there was a request that Government should ensure that exam board support these languages with qualifications. Catherine stated that *'all languages count toward the Ebacc'* and supported this.