

Press Release

14/01/2022

Association for Language Learning – Response to DfE MFL Subject Content Review announcement on 14th January 2022

The Association for Language Learning (ALL) is very disappointed that the Department of Education has not taken up the invitation by subject associations, exam boards and headteacher unions to bring all stakeholders together to work collaboratively in a second review phase of GCSE content design and development.

ALL notes that some modest adjustments to the ways in which vocabulary will be specified, which reflect some of the concerns voiced by stakeholders, and await further detail on the implications of this for the actual content taught and learned. We recognise positively that our joint recommendation of including culture and themes/topics has been adopted, although this falls short of including broader foci on developing intercultural understanding and communication in the target alongside grammar, vocabulary and phonics.

ALL will work closely with stakeholders and examination boards to ensure that future qualifications will not lead to a demotivating curriculum and language learning experience.

ALL is very disappointed that the introduction of this new GCSE Content Review has not been delayed a further year. As it stands, current Year 7 students will be sitting these new GCSE languages exams, who won't be following a Key Stage 3 curriculum that necessarily prepares them for this new GCSE content.