

## **Mark Wilkinson : Our work on transition 2022**

At St Cuthbert's Catholic High School we have created a project in collaboration with local primary schools, in order to recognise and capitalise on the excellent work being done in Modern Foreign Languages by our primary colleagues.

Having twelve main feeder primary schools, St Cuthbert's has pupils arriving in Year 7 having learned a variety of different topics in several different languages. This means that early French lessons are spent covering what is old ground for many, meaning that progress was not taking place at the maximum rate.

Together with Newcastle City Council, Institut Français and leading primary MFL expert Catherine Cheater, we have helped to introduce a new scheme of work into primary schools that will guide pupils to a recognised point in their learning by the end of Year 6. This will allow us to build on previous learning immediately at the beginning of Year 7 and accelerate the rate of progress made in our classrooms. To facilitate this, we have hosted staff training at St Cuthbert's and meet regularly with our primary colleagues to support the learning taking place.

Our goal over the course of the project is that our pupils leave school as successful, confident and enthusiastic linguists, able to benefit from the advantages that being a foreign language speaker offers. Additionally, we envisage that we will see uptake and results improve at both GCSE and A Level.

All primary MFL teachers involved in the project are fully invested in the aims and outcomes that we are looking to reach. Working collaboratively as primary and secondary teachers has given all those involved a much deeper understanding of the varying challenges we face, while at the same time galvanising our desire to see our pupils leave us with a world affirming perspective, along with the many other core skills that Modern Foreign Languages offer.