

## **Why is the EBacc and Languages becoming a compulsory part of the curriculum?**

The government has set schools a target of 75% of students to study a language by 2022 and 90% by 2025. This follows the belief that all students should be able to access an academic curriculum and that studying the EBacc helps to remove barriers to success. It is also the case that languages and humanities can be considered facilitating subjects; studying these subjects supports skills that will benefit students in other subject areas. The Department for Education suggests that students taking these courses at GCSE are more likely to gain places in top universities and be able to demonstrate a range of skills that support employability in an increasingly international market.

Edgbarrow supports this ambition. We want to make sure that students are in the best possible position with regard to job opportunities, access to colleges, apprenticeships and university. We also want to support students whose ambitions and success are served by following pathways two or three, and those who know their career path follows a more creative, practical route. It is important to note that both the Department for Education and OFSTED consider pathway one to be broad and balanced and Edgbarrow deliberately provides four options to allow for choice, specialisation and added breadth.

We are pleased to advise you that the government, working with exam boards, have recently reviewed and made GCSE languages courses more accessible, supporting outcomes for all ability ranges.