



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Dominic Burke
Headteacher
Balcarras School
East End Road
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Dear Mr Burke

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on your school's excellent achievement in entering 79 per cent of your pupils for a language GCSE in 2018.

The Government's view is that studying a language to GCSE is hugely important because the subject provides an opening to other cultures; fosters pupils' curiosity; deepens their understanding of the world; and equips them to study and work in other countries. We know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important in ensuring we can compete in the global market.

The Russell Group has named languages as one of the facilitating subjects that, at A level, opens doors to more degrees at university. We want to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the chance to study a language at GCSE, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 79 per cent of pupils entered for a language GCSE in 2018, your school is in the top 14 per cent of all state funded mainstream secondary schools in the country.

Your school's impressive language GCSE entries means you are providing pupils with a firm foundation in linguistic knowledge, broadening their horizons and enabling them to embark on further study and develop a love of languages.

Thank you and congratulations again to you and your staff.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

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