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4th November 2026

GCSE French and Spanish: the 30 Steps to a Grade 9 Challenge

Dear Parent or Carer,

Throughout November, our Year 11 linguists are able to take part in a national challenge by J Mumford Teacher Training and it is called 30 Steps to a Grade 9. It is designed to do one thing: raise the quality of the language your child produces in their writing and speaking.

The idea is simple. A Grade 5 answer says what happened. A Grade 9 answer says what happened, what had happened before it, what would happen if things were different, and what the writer thinks about all of it. The difference is around thirty structures, used deliberately, and the challenge introduces one of them a day for thirty days.

What your child will do each day

- Read one page: the structure, examples, an examiner tip and a few practice sentences.
- Choose to do one or 2 steps a day.
- Complete a short online quiz of five translation sentences using that day's structure.
- Receive an instant mark out of 15, scored the way the GCSE exam scores it.

It takes about ten minutes. There is nothing to buy and nothing to install.

How you can help at home

- Ask what today's step was and ask them to say a sentence using it out loud. Saying it matters as much as writing it.
- Ask what they scored out of 15. A low score is useful information, not a problem.
- Encourage them to tick the day off only when they can produce the structure without looking at the page.
- If they miss a day, they should carry on from the current step rather than trying to catch up.

How to take part

Scan the code, or go to jmumfordteachertraining.com/30steps

The challenge is free and the first step opens today.

If you have any questions about the challenge, please contact me on kate.rowley@stockport-academy.org

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rowley
CAL of MFL, Stockport Academy