



# TAVERHAM HALL

## Preparatory School

5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Dear Parents,

Your child will be taking his/her French Common Entrance/Scholarship examinations at the end of the school year/at the end of next year and I thought you would be interested to receive some details about the course your child is following. Should you wish to read the ISEB specifications in their entirety, please log onto [www.iseb.co.uk/schools.htm](http://www.iseb.co.uk/schools.htm) where you will be able to find a copy the Revised Common Entrance Syllabus for Modern Languages.

Here are the 13+ examination dates for the 2012 and 2013 sessions:

	CE Listening and Speaking	CE Reading and Writing	Scholarship exams
2012 session	14-18 May	12 June	Spring term 2012
2013 session	13-17 May	4 June	Spring term 2013

- **13+ COMMON ENTRANCE**

At Common Entrance, all pupils now sit the same paper since ISEB decided to remove the distinction between Paper 1 and Paper 2 four years ago.

The four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are assessed by means of examinations conducted under controlled conditions at Taverham Hall. Here is an outline of each skill tested, its weighting and the duration of each exam:

	Listening	Reading	Speaking (recorded)	Writing
Weighting	25%	25%	25%	25%
Exam duration	25 min	30min	6min (role play situation; prepared topic; second topic chosen at random among 4 themes)	30min
Assessed by	Senior School	Senior School	Miss Menegaz – moderated by Senior School	Senior School

- **SCHOLARSHIP**

Senior Schools tend to produce their own individual Scholarship papers, which they mark internally. Scholars will follow a more intensive version of the Common Entrance syllabus based on the requirements of individual schools. Scholarship exams usually take place during the Spring Term and normally involve testing in the 4 skills (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing).

### **Dictionaries**

Use of a bilingual dictionary is not permitted in any of the formal examinations although pupils are allowed to consult a dictionary during the 10min preparation time given prior to the Common Entrance Speaking exam. Dictionaries are available for all pupils to use in school, but some pupils may prefer to purchase their own. I recommend the Collins Easy Learning French Dictionary, which costs around £7.

### **Course content**

The different modules are made up of a series of topic areas and within these topics pupils cover aspects of French grammar, essential vocabulary and important study and examination skills. At the beginning of each module pupils will be provided with a study plan; this will give details of the language and skills to be covered. Pupils will be able to record and evaluate their progress through the module and set themselves targets for the next stage of their work, taking ownership of the feedback received.

### **Resources, prep and independent study**

Pupils have been issued with an exercise book and a very important vocabulary booklet published by ISEB and Galore Park, which they will use both in Year 7 and 8. The cost of this booklet will be added to your Autumn Term school fees invoice (£8.50 – this only applies to parents of Year 7 pupils). As you know, pupils are not allowed to use dictionaries in the examinations so effective vocabulary learning is vital. Your child should expect to learn vocabulary based on the ISEB booklet every week and be tested on it regularly (a schedule will be issued in lessons) as part of a necessary ongoing independent study programme. Pupils will also be given one weekly written prep, which they will be required to complete to the best of their ability (20min in Year 7; 35min in Year 8). Please refer to the Prep and Homework policy on our website for the latest updates.

### **Speaking folders – preparation to the Speaking exam**

In order to help the pupils to prepare effectively for the Speaking component of their final exam, I have put together a booklet which contains all the topics which will need memorising, revision tips, exam specifications, and a table to record progress in Year 7 and 8. Please feel free to have a look on a regular basis and support your child's preparation to what is often thought out to be the most daunting of all exams at Common Entrance/Scholarship level (which it needn't be!).

I hope that this information has been useful. If you require any further details, or wish to discuss your child's progress at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Menegaz, Head of French