

## **Upper-Level Bilingual Classes: Information for Year 9 Students and their Parents**

In the upcoming academic year of 2017/18 our year 9 students will again be able to choose “History” being taught in English instead of the regular subject “Geschichte” in German. “History” is taught at an elementary level (“Grundkurs”), and students will be able to choose it as an examination subject in their final “Abitur” exam if they have attended the bilingual course continuously from year 10 to 12.

### **Why choose a "CLIL" subject (“Content-and-Language-Integrated-Learning”)?**

In our globalized world English is not only used in international communication and business, it is also the language of science and technology. Most publications appear in English, and even students who are not into languages but rather into sciences or economics will have to deal with the English language at university and later on in their professional lives.

### **“History” is not an expanded English class**

- We concentrate on contents rather than linguistic correctness.
- Minor errors will be tolerated.
- The English language is the classroom language, but no grammar will be taught.
- However, students are expected to acquire basic and elaborate historical vocabulary; the material we use is often sufficiently annotated.
- All participants will receive a bilingual certificate with their grade report confirming their successful completion of the History course, which serves as a valuable additional qualification.

### **What is being taught? How will the class be taught?**

- We cover the same curriculum as the German History class, but we focus on different subtopics, using preferably English-language sources.
- This enables our students to extend their view beyond the limits of German historiography and adopt a supra-national perspective.
- The term “bilingual” is misleading: we try to avoid frequent “code-switching”; on the other hand, German contributions are welcome, especially when dealing with German sources.

### **Which requirements must be met in order to choose “History”?**

- “History” is especially recommended for students who have already attended bilingual classes prior to year 10, but this is not an absolute requirement.
- Students should be interested in historical and contemporary issues as seen from multiple perspectives.
- They should have a solid basic knowledge of English (grade 3 or better).
- They should be prepared to spend some more time on that subject than on History in German.