

# Special Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Report

## **Welcome & apologies (15)**

Since the General Meeting in October 2015 we have had about 10 committee meetings.

## **OCR GCSE OCR AS/A level exams**

In addition to that we have had meetings and communications with various organisations, MPs etc regarding the decision made by OCR to discontinue the Gujarati GCSE and A level examinations. After fair amount of communications and consultations OCR agreed to continue the examinations until **summer 2019**.

OCR will be working closely with Pearson and AQA to secure as smooth a handover as possible.

The Department for Education has gained agreements in principle from Pearson to provide **Gujarati**, Persian, Portuguese and Turkish GCSE Level.

The **final assessment** opportunities for **Gujarati**, Persian, Portuguese and Turkish will be in **summer 2019**.

The **final assessment** opportunities for **Gujarati** will be in **summer 2019**, with resits in summer **2020** for AS and A Levels only.

## **Reformed AS/A level exams**

CGS received a consultation document DfE and Ofqual on the proposed **Reformed A level and AS subject content for modern foreign languages (alternative content for languages with smaller cohorts)**. This included Gujarati.

The content for modern languages with smaller cohorts is largely identical to the reformed A level (and AS) content which applies to French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Italian and Russian and came out in 2015. However, for modern languages with smaller cohorts like Gujarati, **the requirement to demonstrate speaking skills is not included in the proposed content**. The A level (and AS) content for modern languages with smaller cohorts will apply to courses beginning in September 2018.

With a view to discuss this document and draft a suitable response. CGS organised consultation meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to discuss the contents of the DfE and Ofqual documents relating to the proposed reforms to AS/A level.

Shobhaben Joshi, one of our prominent 'A' Level Gujarati teachers in Leicester, also OCR examiner, kindly agreed to facilitate the discussion.

The documents were emailed almost 278 Gujarati schools, organisations and teachers inviting them to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, the attendance at the meeting was quite disappointing with only about 16 attendees.

Jayantbhai undertook the task of summarising the suggestions put forward by those who were present. The final document with our response was sent to DfES and Ofqual as well as to all committee members.

**CGS** also received emails from EdExcel / Pearson regarding Qualification development of new the GCSE and AS/A levels; and the recruitment of subject experts, examiners, scrutineers, revisers, assessors. These emails have also been forwarded to all those on our emailing list (again approx. 278) inviting them to apply for any of the posts if they wished.

Any updates we receive are forwarded to all Gujarati Schools, organisation and teachers so that they are kept up-to-date regarding the GCSE and AS/A levels.

**Comments** - It seems that because everyone receives regular updates, and also now that the GCSE and AS/A levels are secure (for time being at least), Gujarati schools, organisations and teachers have become more complacent.

As a result CGS is not getting as much response and support from them as expected.

This is evident from

- the number of organisations/schools who have become members of CGS members;
- the number of completed schools information forms we have received;
- the attendance at the meeting (one can see from today's meeting)

### **CGS Membership**

We have many communities running Gujarati classes at week-ends and to-date we have 22 paid organisation members and 5 individual members.

Although, we send updates to all organisations on our emailing list, some organisations teaching Gujarati have not be forthcoming.

### **School Information forms**

The information provided on the form about schools enables CGS to ascertain

- how many Gujarati schools are represented by CGS;
- how many children learn Gujarati in these schools;
- how many candidates are expected to sit for GCSE in 2017 & 2018;
- how many teachers are teaching Gujarati in supplementary schools.

Last year we received completed Schools Information forms from 28 Gujarati school of which 1 was non-member of CGS.

The information provided on the forms was very useful for fighting our case for continuation of GCSE and AS/A level examinations.

This year, in spite of 3 reminders, we have only received 16 completed forms of which 4 are from non-members of CGS.

### **CGS Website**

CGS is in the process of setting up the website and plan to include a variety of information that will be useful to parents, teachers, students and others.

CGS would like to include a list of all schools that teach Gujarati outside school times and the information about these schools so that parents and community members can choose the appropriate school to their areas and needs for their children.

For that reason, an email was sent out requesting Gujarati schools, organisations requesting them to produce a leaflet about their school and activities so that we can display it our website to attract as many students as possible.

To-date we have received flyers / leaflets from only 5 organisations.

## **Training**

CGS organised two trainings for Gujarati Teachers.

The first training one was a whole day training organised on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 at Ekta Centre. Approximately 87 teachers from various Gujarati supplementary schools attended the training. The overall feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

The course comprised of 4 sessions – two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

The first two sessions on generic issues of teaching and learning (planning, structure, teaching, assessment etc.) – delivered by Jayantbhai.

Sessions 3 and 4 on subject specific issues like Spellings, Grammar, resources etc. delivered by Shobhaben Joshi of Leicester.

The second training three-session training for primary level (reception, lower and upper junior) teachers was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and it also went very well. The first session was delivered by Rekhaben Shah, the 2<sup>nd</sup> session by Vijyaben Bhanderi and the 3<sup>rd</sup> session by Vibhaben Rawal.

Approximately 50 teachers attended the training. The feedback was good and positive. Some of the participants requested more training for higher levels.

CGS is also planning the next training which would be “Leadership and Management” training for the leaders, organisers, head teachers etc. the date is yet to be finalised.

## **AS/A level course**

CGS was planning an AS/A level course in January 2017 at Ekta Centre. An email for the possible was sent to all Gujarati schools. Unfortunately there was no interest except from one person, hence the course did not go ahead.

## **Thanks**

CGS is very grateful to Kadwa Patidar Samaj for providing venue for the general meetings in 2015 and all the committee meetings. Our special thanks to the President of KPS and Madhuben Kalaria for organising the venue for CGS for all the meetings.

Oshwal's Ekta Centre volunteers and particularly Nirmalbhai and Rekhaben have been very supportive and helpful in organising the trainings sessions at Ekta Centre. CGS is very grateful to them for providing all the facilities, and also delicious lunch and tea and coffee at the training sessions.

**Thank you to both these organisations and hope they will continue to support CGS in the future.**

We hope that other organisations will also support in similar ways.