

Exam board Pearson to offer Gujarati GCSE in the future

Last year it was announced that certain languages were going to be scrapped by UK exam boards and included Gujarati, Punjabi and Bengali. At the time shadow education secretary Tristram Hunt called on the government to 'rescue' these subjects saying "Precisely at the time we need to be harnessing our entrepreneurial capital and soft power in the new emerging economies, the Government's actions will lead to fewer young people being able to take A levels in Portuguese, Turkish, Gujarati and Punjabi."

At the time a spokesperson for AQA said: "We completely understand and respect the importance of these languages, and we still intend to offer all of them at GCSE. With language A-levels changing to include speaking and listening as well as reading and writing, it'll be extremely difficult to recruit enough examiners in

these subjects to cope with double the amount of assessment. In addition, the small number of students choosing to study these subjects at A-level makes it very hard to set appropriate grade boundaries."

Following much debate both within the media and within the education system a campaign led by **Jayant Tanna**, Chairman of the Consortium of Gujarati Schools kept the flame burning for these languages to remain. Mr Tanna recently received a letter by **Paul Steer**, Head of Policy at OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations) which stated: "OCR has been in lengthy dialogue with the DfE, Ofqual and the other exam boards for some time in an attempt to find a satisfactory way forward."

"Although OCR will not be offering GCSE and A Level Gujarati beyond our current commitments, we

are grateful that the exam board Pearson has agreed in principle to offer these qualifications in the future. This will secure the continued availability of both GCSEs and GCEs in Gujarati."

He continued: "We will, of course, be working closely with Pearson to secure a smooth handover and we will be waiving all relevant intellectual property rights, and communicating with assessors and centres etc, in order to allow this to happen. Obviously, it will take some time to finalise the arrangements and there is much detail yet to be worked through."

"The practical consequences of our decision are that, for Gujarati, the final OCR courses will start in September 2017 with final examinations taking place in the summer of 2019 with a re-sit opportunity for A

Levels/AS Levels in 2020."

Jayant Tanna responded by saying: "This is excellent news!! I would like to thank each and every one of you for your wonderful cooperation, support, advice and commitment to Gujarati language for our future and that of our children."

"I must mention my particular thanks to **Gareth Thomas** and **Bob Blackman** for their unstinting support and wonderful advocacy role in Parliament and with DfE colleagues. But this is also a time when we have got to continue with our efforts to work hard with our parents, children, community groups and of course teachers and examination boards. Yes we can take a great deal of pride in our success but we must not forget that the challenge before us remains."

Bhaktivedanta Manor granted Planning Permission for community hall



The local Hertsmere Borough Council's planning committee officially granted planning permission for a new development on the grounds of the Manor, in Aldenham north of London, last Thursday.

The temple applied to build to build a two storey community building or a

Haveli, as well as relocating the existing poly tunnels, greenhouses and playground.

The originally planning application was submitted in December 2014 and a number of changes have been made to the application over the past 16 months.

Bake Off winner to open the Asia House Literature Festival

Nadiya Hussain, the winner of the BBC's Great British Bake Off in 2015, will open this year's Asia House Bagri Foundation Literature Festival with a discussion about integration and identity in the UK. Hussain will be in conversation with journalist **Yasmin Alibhai-Brown** about her experience of growing up as an Asian in the UK and what it was really like to win the BBC's Great British Bake Off. The Festival



Nadiya Hussain

will run from Wednesday 4 May until Wednesday 18 May, with the majority of events taking place at Asia House's central London headquarters.



Sneha Joshi

The UK's leading
Vedic writer and
TV personality

Call 020 8518 5500

Editor: CB Patel

Associate Editor: Rupanjana Dutta

Tel: 020 7749 4098 - Email: rupanjana.dutta@abplgroup.com

Deputy Editor: Anand Pillai

Tel: 020 7749 4002 - Email: anand.pillai@abplgroup.com

Senior News Editor: Dhiren Katwa

Chief Operating Officer: Liji George Tel: 020 7749 4013

Email: george@abplgroup.com

Bureau Chief: Nilesch Parmar (M) +91 94266 36912

Email: nilesch.parmar@abplgroup.com

Consulting Editor: Bhupatbhai Parekh, Ahmedabad, Gujarat Tel: +91 79 2630 4142 Urvasi Jagadeesan (India)

Mumbai: Kanti Bhatt, Hemraj Shah

(Jumbo Advertiser) Horizon Advertising & Marketing:

2012, Shalibhadra Complex, Opp. Jain Derasar, Nr. Nehru

Nagar Circle, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad. Tel +91 79 2646 5960

Email: horizon.marketing@abplgroup.com