

# Welcome to Modern Languages Department

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## Subject Overview

### Key Stage 3

Students are taught modern languages using an optimal mixture of traditional and creative strategies. We teach French and Spanish from beginner level but aim to complement students' language learning at Key Stage 2. We aim to develop the following skills equally throughout each year:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

In Year 7 students study French and in Year 8 they have the opportunity to learn Spanish as well. Many of our students go on to study two languages at GCSE or higher but all have the opportunity to study at least one.

### Key Stage 4

We begin our GCSE courses in Year 9 and they are completed in the summer of Year 11. We follow the AQA specification for all three languages.

### Post 16

We offer French, German and Spanish at A level and we follow the AQA specification.

## Teaching Aims and Objectives

The Modern Languages Department aims to make students passionate and excited about learning languages. We wish for our students to be inspired and confident in their abilities and to be able to be well-equipped to use their languages for a range of purposes, both within the classroom and beyond. It is our belief that students should be taught the necessary skills to be able to solve problems, to communicate effectively, to take risks in their learning so that they are not afraid to make mistakes and to be keen to improve their work in all areas. We ensure that students are taught grammar thoroughly so that they are able to access more complex language for themselves. We also work to develop students' literacy, numeracy and ICT skills as we move through the course.

## Course Information

### Key Stage 3

Year 7: French (We use the Studio course from Pearson)

- *C'est perso*: Introducing myself and basic structures
- *Mon collègue*: Describing school life
- *Mes passetemps*: Hobbies and interests
- *Ma zone*: Where you live.
- *Partez!*: Talking about holidays. Introducing the future tense

Year 8: Spanish

- *Mi vida*: First contact with Spanish, understanding basic greetings and introductions, dates, numbers and following basic instructions.
- *Mi tiempo libre*: Free time and hobbies
- *Mi familia y mis amigos*: Describing family members including appearance and personality. Talking about pets. Expressing opinions.
- *Mi insti*: School environment including facilities, subjects, teachers, timetable. Telling the time.
- *Mi ciudad*: Places in town and directions. Use of the immediate future.

French

- *T'es branché*: Exploring opinions of film, T.V. reading and the internet
- *Paris, je t'adore!* : Visiting a city as a tourist. Introduction to the perfect tense
- *Comment tu t'amuses*: (consolidation unit) school subjects and routine, hobbies and interests, talking about food. Use of past tense.
- *Mon identité*: Personality, adjectival agreement, opinions of music and clothes. Revision of present, past and future tenses.
- *Chez moi, chez toi*: Describing home, local area and meals.
- *Quel talent?!* :Focus on grammar, modal verbs, imperative, superlatives, adjectives, variety of tenses.

#### Key Stage 4

French, German and Spanish students begin the 3 year GCSE course in Year 9. We are following the brand new GCSE course for each language from Pearson. The new exams are all linear with no coursework. Each skill (listening, speaking, reading and writing) is equally weighted at 25% of the marks and is assessed at the end of the course.

French, German and Spanish course outline:

Year 9

- Me, my family and friends
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- My studies
- Free time activities
- Customs and festivals

Year 10

- Life at school / college
- Travel and tourism
- Education post 16
- Social issues
- Marriage and partnership
- Technology in daily life

Year 11

- Global issues
- Social issues (charity work)
- Career choices and ambitions
- Homelessness
- Revision

## Key Stage 4 (for students in Year 11 in the academic year 2016-2017)

- Year 11:
- Healthy Living
  - Family and Relationships
  - Holidays
  - Controlled assessment (ongoing with each unit)
  - Environment
  - Work
  - Controlled assessment (ongoing with each unit)
  - Revision for GCSE examinations

Specifications for those in Year 11 for 2016-17 only

GCSE French

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE Spanish

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE German

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668/specification-at-a-glance>

**Post 16** French, German and Spanish are offered at AS and A level.

Year 12: We will be following the new AQA courses for each language:

Specifications for those beginning in 2016 -17 only

French

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/specification-at-a-glance>

German

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662/specification-at-a-glance>

Spanish

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692/specification-at-a-glance>

Topics taught on these courses:

- Aspects of French, German, Spanish society
- Artistic culture in the French, German, Spanish world
- Multiculturalism in French, German, Spanish society
- Aspects of political life in society
- Grammar
- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification

Year 13: **For students finishing their A level on the old AQA specification**

French

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-2650/spec-at-a-glance>

German

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-2660/spec-at-a-glance>

Spanish

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-2695/spec-at-a-glance>

Topics taught on these courses

- **Environment**
- Pollution
- Energy
- How to protect the planet
- **Multicultural society**
- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism
- **Social issues**
- Wealth and poverty
- Public order
- Impact of science and technology
- **Two cultural topics**
- A film
- A Play
- Both cultural topics are from authentic French, German, or Spanish-speaking countries

## **Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)**

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are set homework once per week. Students will be expected to learn vocabulary relevant to the topics being studied.

GCSE students are set homework twice per week to meet the demands of the course.

AS/A Level students are expected to support their study with extra exposure to authentic language materials and wider reading. This is in addition to essays set.

It is expected that AS/A level students will do one hour of homework or private study for each hour of teaching time they have in school.

Students will need access to the internet to extend their learning through the completion of independent research, reviewing grammar keeping up to date with foreign language news items. Teachers may also book computer rooms within school according to the needs of the course.

Websites used and/or recommended by the department:

[www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com) - KS3 and GCSE. All students have access to this and teacher may set homework tasks on here which are then marked and can be checked in class.

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) - A free and useful resource for practising KS3 languages

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/> - Useful for GCSE revision and study

<https://www.vocabexpress.com/>

[www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com) - Used by teachers of GCSE and A level classes. All Post 16 students have their own log in information to allow access for homework and revision.

## **Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

All Year 7 students have the opportunity to take part in the Foreign Language Spelling Bee. We enter a small number of finalists in the regional finals each year and we are hoping to compete at a national level again this year. <http://www.flspellingbee.co.uk/>

Every two years, Year 8 and 9 students studying Spanish are offered the opportunity to undertake a Spanish exchange trip to Tarragona in the North East of Spain. This is an ideal chance to experience the culture, family life and cuisine of Spain as well as practise their Spanish.

There is also a German exchange with 'Fallersleben Gymnasium' near Wolfsburg, Germany. This exchange has been running for over 25 years and has been highly successful since its beginnings.

New for 2016, a French exchange to Bréhal, Normandy will be launched for Year 8 and 9 students.

The department is proud of and passionate about the exchange programmes on offer.

## **Marking and Assessment**

Students' work is marked in line with school policy and students are given both verbal and written feedback on their work. They are also expected to engage in written dialogue with their teachers to improve their written work. Teachers show students how to support each other in lessons by using peer assessment and self assessment to evaluate their work.

All Key Stage 3 students are assessed after each unit of teaching and these assessments cover all four key skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). There are also end of year examinations for all languages at Key Stage 3.

Year 10 and 11 GCSE students are assessed regularly although the majority of their assessed work is their controlled assessment (two speaking tasks and two written tasks which form 60% of their final GCSE grade). They are also given smaller tests in all four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing to check their general progress.

Year 9 French and German students will be starting the preparation for the new GCSE course. This will be a linear course which means there will no longer be a coursework element. All students will be examined at the end of Year 11 in all four skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

## **Examinations**

All Key Stage 3 students will have internal examinations at the end of each year.

GCSE students will sit their final examinations in French, German or Spanish at the end of Year 11. These form 25% of the final GCSE grade and listening, speaking, reading and writing are all assessed separately. There is no coursework.

A level students will have one speaking examination at the end of the course in Year 13. Additionally they have two examinations which assess: listening, reading and writing. There will also be annual mock examinations and regular tests which do not count towards the final mark. We hope to be following the new AQA Kerboodle course and book.

