

Welcome to the Modern Languages Department

Subject Leader	Mr C Williamson
Teachers	Mr S Kemp (2 nd in department/Head of French), Miss S Evans, Mrs T Thorne, Miss E Wright

Subject Overview

Key Stage 3

Students are taught modern languages using an optimal mixture of traditional and creative strategies. We teach French and German 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 German as well. Many of our students go on to study two languages at GCSE but all have the opportunity to study at least one. We strongly encourage students to consider studying languages at A level.

Key Stage 4

Students who opt for GCSE languages begin a foundation year in Year 9 in which we consolidate and develop the knowledge and skills they have developed in Year 7 and Year 8 so that they are well prepared for more intensive GCSE study in Year 10 and Year 11. We follow the AQA specification for all three languages.

Sixth Form

We offer French and German 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 want 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 and numeracy skills and also their cultural knowledge and cultural capital as we move through the course.

Course Information

Key Stage 3

Year 7 French (We use the Dynamo 1 course from Pearson)

- *La rentrée*: Numbers, months and key sounds. Describing yourself.
- *En classe*: Describing school life.
- *Mon temps libre*: Hobbies and interests.
- *Ma vie de famille*: Describing your family and where you live.
- *En ville*: Talking about places in town. Introducing the future tense.

Year 8 German (We use the Stimmt 1 course from Pearson)

- *Meine Welt und ich*: First contact with German, understanding basic greetings and numbers, where you live, talking about possessions.
- *Familie und Tiere*: Describing family members including appearance and personality. Talking about pets, dates, birthdays, speaking skills, asking.
- *Freizeit*: Talking about free time & hobbies, technology, writing skills.
- *Schule ist Klasse*: School environment including facilities, subjects, teachers, timetable. Telling the time.
- *Gute Reise*: Places in town and directions, holiday plans, future tense.

French (We use the Studio 2 course from Pearson)

- *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 and German students begin a foundation year in Year 9. They spend more time developing the skills and knowledge from their KS3 studies which serves as good preparation for full GCSE study in Year 10 and Year 11. The GCSE 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. We prepare students for AQA GCSE exams and the links are below. These topics are studied throughout the course although when varies across the three languages.

Year 9

- Me, my family and friend
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- My studies (school life in the UK and France/ Germany)
- Free time activities
- Customs, festivals and traditions

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

Sixth Form

French and German are offered at A Level.

Year 12 We follow the AQA courses for French and German.

Topics taught on these courses:

- Aspects of French and German society
- Artistic culture in the French and German world
- Multiculturalism in French and German –speaking society
- Aspects of political life in society
- Grammar
- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Independent research project

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:

<http://www.pearsonactivelearn.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. The materials on this site are based on the resources we use in the classroom.

www.languagesonline.org.uk - A free and useful resource for practising KS3 languages.

<https://www.gcsepod.com/> - GCSE Pod. Useful for GCSE revision and study.

<https://maryglasgowplus.com/subscribe> - Students can subscribe to 'Mary Glasgow Magazines'. These are written in French, German and Spanish and are designed for young learners.

www.kerboodle.com - Used by teachers of GCSE and A level classes. All Post 16 students have their own login to allow access for homework and revision.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Each year we organise opportunities for students to watch short plays in French or German for Key Stage 3 and 4 students to support their studies.

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 on a rotation (listening, speaking, reading, writing).

Examinations and specification details

GCSE Modern Languages

[French](#)
[German](#)

A Level Modern Languages

[French](#)
[German](#)

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

GCSE students will sit their final examinations in French and/or German 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 but inform teachers and students about the progress learners are making.