

Clarendon Academy Modern Foreign Languages Faculty Information for Applicants – June 2023

I am very proud to be able to say that just two words sum up the Modern Foreign Languages Faculty at Clarendon – a team. We are a group of hard-working and ambitious professionals who aim to support students of all abilities and across all key stages in becoming confident communicators, while achieving the results they need to secure their dreams. Our curriculum is one that encourages students to have imagination and to develop an enduring curiosity about the world around them. In lessons, we focus on providing lively, challenging and engaging learning experiences. If this seems like the sort of environment in which you would like to work, then I look forward to receiving your application.

Kay Gillard
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

1. Faculty Structure and Main Responsibilities

We are currently a faculty with three full-time and one part-time members of staff.

Head of Faculty	:	Kay Gillard
Teacher of French and German	:	Helen Smith
Teacher of French and German	:	Voirey Levett
Teacher of French	:	Mathilde Cadet

Our faculty is currently in an exciting stage of its development: Our curriculum has been re-shaped to ensure that it remains relevant and fascinating, whilst still equipping our students with the fundamental skills required for success in their exams and their future careers.

2. Professional Development

Clarendon Academy prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff, and to others. We have a comprehensive ECT induction programme, including weekly meetings for professional development with a mentor from the department, INSET sessions and training within our departmental meetings. We also believe it is important to have support away from the team so new members of staff are allocated a teaching 'buddy' (a teacher from a different faculty with a similar amount of teaching experience) to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. We are an incredibly caring and supportive team and we pride ourselves on giving new recruits all the help they need as they begin or continue to develop their teaching careers.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Our entire plan for Key Stage 3 has two clear aims – to create enthusiastic, confident and successful learners of a foreign language and inspire our students to become more aware of the world around them. We aspire to ensure that all students at the end of their Key Stage 3 MFL journey are global communicators. The vast majority of students in Years 7 and 8 study both French and German and then pick at least one to study in greater depth throughout Year 9 in preparation for their GCSE exam.

Every MFL lesson in Key Stage 3 begins with a reference to a threshold concept and then how it relates to the topic being studied. Lessons are designed to engage, inspire and most importantly ensure success for our students. Our starter activities show our commitment to revisiting previous learning, ensuring that work covered from previous topics and recent ideas are re-examined. As students make progress, they are awarded benchmark stickers so that they can see the steps they are taking to reach their target grade by the end of the year.

Key Stage 4

Throughout Key Stage 4, we aim to instil our core belief that language learning is a lifelong skill that develops confidence and independence. Just over 50% of all students at Clarendon currently opt to study a second language at GCSE. Following the AQA exam syllabi, students continue to develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as become more familiar with the culture and history of France and Germany. They also develop their knowledge of vocabulary and improve their grammatical accuracy in exciting, challenging and fun lessons.

Key Stage 5

Sadly the 2022 – 2023 academic year will mark the first time in memory that we will have neither a French nor German class in Years 12 and 13. This is something we as a team are looking to correct and have huge hopes for strong 'A' level cohorts from our current year 10 classes.

4. Faculty Accommodation and Resources

The MFL faculty is housed together in one block and comprises four classrooms. We also have access to computer suites. All full-time teachers in the faculty have their own room in which they teach and all rooms have whiteboards, projectors and visualisers.

Every module in all Key Stages is supported by a detailed teaching and learning overview, alongside a wide range of resources, video clips, PowerPoint presentations and other relevant materials.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

We firmly believe that the best way to learn a foreign language is to immerse yourself in the country and its culture. Alongside trips in the UK to promote cultural awareness, for example a trip to London to watch 'Les Misérables', students are given the opportunity to visit France and Germany during both Key Stage 3 and their GCSE courses, pandemics permitting!

We also run competitions throughout the academic year to raise cultural awareness. Key Stage 3 students are encouraged to research French and German Christmas traditions and then create a decoration for our MFL Christmas tree. We also have an annual 'MFL Bake Off' competition. Judging is a perk of being part of the MFL team!

6. Further Information

The Ethos of the MFL Faculty

The MFL Faculty at Clarendon Academy is focused very much on the achievement and wellbeing of the students in our care. We value well-structured, challenging and engaging lessons that are created around in-depth subject knowledge and inventive approaches to pedagogy.

The faculty has a supportive, friendly atmosphere where new ideas and approaches are welcomed and openly discussed and all decisions that relate to MFL are discussed with meetings and a consensus reached. It's that word again – team.

What Sort of Person Do We Want?

The focus for our faculty is firmly on teaching and learning as we look at ways of improving and enhancing the learning experience all of our students receive. We are therefore looking first and foremost for an excellent classroom practitioner who can bring new ideas and approaches to the faculty.

We will also require enthusiasm, hard work, a sense of humour and a willingness to 'go the extra mile'. In return we will offer you support when you need it, excellent career progression and training, as well as a stimulating and vibrant working atmosphere. If you are looking for a new challenge in a supportive environment with a like-minded team of professionals, then we would love to hear from you.