**Modern Foreign Languages**

**Departmental Overview**

**International Dimension**

Having been designated a Specialist School for Languages in September 2006, Hanley Castle High School continues to build on its strengths as a school that promotes internationalism, offers students excellent learning opportunities and positions itself at the centre of the local community.

We encourage all our students to understand that they are part of an international community and impress on them their need to harbour respect and tolerance towards other cultures and nationalities.

The building of a state-of-the-art language block was completed in September 2008. The accommodation compromises 5 modern language classrooms, all equipped with interactive whiteboards and wireless points to enable use of the 32 student-laptops in any of the classrooms.

Students and staff have the opportunity to experience a wide programme international events. Over the last 5 years these have included: a cross-curricular language day, the annual Y7 Eurovision Competition, a Careers in Languages conference, a Primary Festival of Languages, an A Level Language Day run by GCHQ, language taster sessions of less common European languages, visitors from schools in Japan, China, Sweden, Hungary, France and Germany, visits across Europe and China.

In 2007, the school first gained the International Schools Award which recognises our commitment to an international ethos and curriculum. This has been renewed every three years since then.

**MFL Department**

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is dynamic, innovative and forward-looking. Staff are dedicated to achieving excellent standards of student attainment and to fostering a high level of enthusiasm and motivation for learning languages.

The department believes that learning a modern language has a particular value and importance for all students because:

* It offers a new opportunity to experience success at all levels
* It broadens horizons and extends their cultural knowledge
* It creates positive opportunities to develop generic skills such as negotiating, co-operating, communicating, listening effectively and working in different groups and combinations, which will enable pupils to become life-long learners
* It is a unique and enjoyable way of acquiring a valuable skill, which is essential in the modern world

There is a strong emphasis in the department on teamwork. We are committed to the development of new, original and innovative resources, which both challenge and stimulate. All members of the department embrace and share new ideas, which enhance the teaching and learning of students across the age and ability range. As a department we are also highly committed to Initial Teacher Training and welcome ITT Students to the department each term. Many members of the department are involved in the training and mentoring process. In this way, we maintain very close links with the University of Worcester’s Department of Education.

**MFL Curriculum**

Key Stage 3

All students study one language in Year 7 for five hours per fortnight, either French or German.

In Years 8 and 9, most pupils have the opportunity to pick up the other language, either French, German for 3 hours per fortnight in addition to 4 hours of their first language.

Key Stage 4

The vast majority of students study at least one language at KS4, most to GCSE level (currently Edexcel Specification), with some taking two languages.

Post-16

We currently run AQA AS/A2 courses in French and German.

**Primary Languages**

We have been a lead school in supporting the introduction of languages at KS2 and were instrumental in setting up language provision in many of our feeder primary schools. The model we have introduced has been recognised nationally after we have gained the Leading Aspect Award for innovation in teaching and learning. We continue to foster links with our primary pyramid and build on the excellent work of our colleagues in KS2.

**Extra-Curricular**

The school has a wide-ranging programme of visits and exchanges. There is a thriving annual exchange with the Rhön Gymnasium in Bad Neustadt, Bavaria. We have an annual French study visit, our ski trip exchange which usually travels to Austria our joint history and German visit for 6th form students to Berlin.

*A tremendous opportunity is open for an enthusiastic and dynamic professional who wishes to enjoy teaching young people and develop professionally within a forward thinking environment.*