



LAURUS

TRUST

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## Languages at Laurus



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At Laurus schools all students study a Language from Year 7 and take their final GCSE examinations in that Language at the end of Year 9. Our students benefit from at least 8 hours of Language lessons per fortnight in Years 7, 8 and 9. Last year at 97% of our Year 9 cohort sat their GCSE in French, German or Spanish. 83% of those students achieved a grade 5 or higher and 47% achieved a grade 7 or higher.

We believe that it is important to develop our students' spoken ability and confidence in their foreign Language. Students are challenged to respond spontaneously in discussions in class and this leads to them forming strong oracy skills. Below are our core principles of Language learning in Laurus schools which ensure that students become confident and successful communicators in French, German or Spanish:

**Speak First** – Students are learning how to communicate in another language and this begins with speech. Students quickly build their confidence from day one in Year 7, which allows them to respond naturally to each other and their teacher, being comfortable using the taught language, aiming to achieve excellent pronunciation.

**Creative and cultural Contexts** – We want students to learn a language through a range of compelling contexts which will take them beyond their previous experiences or engage them through creative themes. We teach through topics such as Fairy Tales, The Rainforest, Artists, Architects and Writers, Festivals, Mysteries and Film amongst others.

**Grammar progression** – The Curriculum in Languages is driven by grammar rather than vocabulary or topics. Language does not exist in isolation and students must understand how it is built and interconnected. The Curriculum has been carefully designed so that grammar components are carefully sequenced and interleaved to allow students to master them at various stages. Teachers can then scaffold new language onto prior learning, exposing patterns to students and helping them to see how everything fits together. This enables students to manipulate language to express themselves in more flexible and creative ways

**Retrieval practice** – We believe that students need to regularly retrieve key vocabulary and language structures in order to build a level of automaticity which allows them to speak and write with increasing fluency.

## **Co-Curricular enrichment**

We believe that students should have the opportunity to experience as many of the different sides to learning a language as possible. In order to support this, we offer a range of enrichment opportunities both within and outside of lessons. These include poetry competitions, opportunities to explore festivals and traditions in other countries, language taster sessions in new languages and visits abroad to the countries where the taught languages are spoken.





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