



Modern Languages Department Information

An Introduction to the Department

In the Modern Foreign Languages department, you will find a cohesive team of staff whose vision and practice promotes curiosity and diversity; we value and celebrate difference by exploring cultures inside and outside the classroom “from every nation, tribe and tongue” (Rev 7.9). By valuing the contributions of all individuals, we ensure there are equal opportunities for staff and students to express and appreciate a range of viewpoints. The Head of Department is supported by one TLR post-holder. There are eight members of the team, and a mix of full and part time members.

Teaching

- **KS3**

In year 7, students study both French and German for 3 lessons a fortnight. They are taught in mixed learning groups. At the end of year 7, students opt for either French, German or both languages to continue to year 8 and 9. Those doing one language are taught in mixed ability groups for 4 lessons a fortnight, while those who choose to continue with both languages study their second language for two lessons a fortnight during an after-school class.

For French we follow Studio, and for German we follow Stimmt, and subscribe to interactive textbooks from Active Teach and interactive online learning from Active Learn for all students. Our schemes of work emphasise the importance of grammar, rather than vocabulary, and phonics.

- **KS4**

At GCSE, 1 in 4 current Year 10 students take a language, while in Year 11 around 1 in 5 students study a language.

In 2023, 90% of GCSE students achieved a grade 9-4 in German with an average grade of 5, and 94% in French, with an average grade of 6.

- **Sixth Form**

We currently have students studying both A Level French and German, following the Edexcel specification. Students enjoy study of Au Revoir Les Enfants and Un Sac de Billes in French and of Goodbye Lenin and Ich Fühl Mich so Fifty-Fifty in German.

In 2023, students studying A level French had an average grade B and those studying German had an average grade A.

Learning Outside the Classroom Enrichment Activities

The languages department is proud of their contribution to whole school enrichment. Annually, we host boules tournaments for year 7, a French breakfast and German lunch for students in year 8, and students in Years 8-10 enjoy a touring theatre company. We also run whole school events, such as Bastille Day and Nikolaustag. We have a very popular German exchange to Norden and a KS3 residential trip with the History department to Normandy. For Key Stages 4 and 5, we run a Paris weekend trip and we hope to introduce a German Christmas market trip.

Environment

The languages department are all housed in the Fitzmaurice building in freshly renovated classrooms with new furniture. Every fully resourced classroom has a new interactive whiteboard with transferrable My Whiteboard technology allowing teachers to bring their Pearson Active Teach lessons to life.

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