**MFL**

MFL consists of two languages; Spanish and French studied in Years 7 to 11. The department had previously followed the AQA qualification at GCSE however, the current Year 11 cohort will be last students studying this specification. Current Year 10 students are studying the Pearson GCSE qualification for both Spanish and French. All schools in the Redhill Trust now follow the Pearson specification for MFL at GCSE to enable shared curriculum planning, best practice, moderation of assessments etc.

The department consists of a team of four staff; a Head of Faculty who is also currently also the Head of Spanish, a Head of French and 2 classroom MFL teachers who specialise in Spanish.

Results in both languages have been disappointing over the last few years; the new post holder will have an opportunity to reinvigorate the Faculty and work with the team to develop students’ enthusiasm and a love for learning languages. There is scope to further develop curriculum and assessment resources as well as developing the co-curricular aspect of the Faculty; a joint trip to France in 2026 has been discussed with MFL staff at Park Vale Academy, another Trust school. It would be great if this can be offered to Oakwood students.

Spanish results in 2024 were as follows: 4+ was 20.8%; 5+ 15.6% and 7+ 5.2%, APS 2.74, SPI -1.8, significantly below national average.

French was introduced several years ago at KS3 and 2023 saw the first set of GCSE results for the faculty. Results in 2024 were stronger than Spanish but still below national average with 4+ 54.5%, 5+ 27.3%, 7+ 0%, APS 3.64; SPI -1.5.

There is definitely scope to further develop curriculum plans and assessment in both subjects in order to reinvigorate langauges and raise it’s profile at Oakwood. The team have recently moved to Conti-style teaching practices and have been working closely with Trust colleagues to implement this into both KS3 and 4 curricula. We currently have 2 Year 10 GCSE Spanish groups, however, there are no students studying French in Year 10; there will be 2 Spanish and 1 French GCSE group for the new Year 10 chort in September 2025. The Head of French has just returned from maternity leave and has a remit of increasing uptake at GCSE as part of her priorities.

We work closely with Redhill Trust colleague and Faculty leaders attend regular network meetings, subject specific INSET days and there are lots of opportunities to share best practice with other schools. Students receive 6 hours per fortnight at GCSE from Year 10 in KS4, and 4 hours per fortnight in Years 7 & 8. In Years 7 -9, the top sets study Spanish and/or French, however, this changes depending on curriculm needs and staff subject specialisms.

MFL forms a key component in the successes of our students and hence the successful candidate will play a crucial part in building a highly successful MFL department, contributing to EBACC and whole school measures.

If you are interested in joining our team and driving future success then we shall be delighted to receive your application.

Ms S Byrne

Deputy Headteacher