



RICHARD LANDER SCHOOL

MODERN LANGUAGES CURRICULUM AREA

The Modern Languages department at Richard Lander School is lively, enthusiastic and very successful. There are 6 members of staff, 4 full-time and 2 part-time and 2 foreign language assistants. Results are regularly at least at the national average with an entry of around 70 students.

We believe passionately in languages for all and our schemes of work are designed to motivate and encourage participation at all levels, with whole year events such as the Francovision / Spanglovision song contests being highlights of the school year. Our success has been based on a belief that if an activity is fun, the students will learn. Students make tannoy announcements in different languages, taste foods from other countries and write and perform songs and short plays. There are visits from theatre companies and former students who are using their languages at work, as well as 'Drop down days' where a whole year group or particular group of students is taken off timetable for a whole/half day of language activities on a particular theme.

We offer a range of activities for Gifted and Talented and Pupil Premium students, which last year included French & Spanish cooking activities, as well as trips to Truro College. We also occasionally enter students in the United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad. We value students with English as a second language as talented linguists and celebrate their success wherever possible, entering students for a wide variety of languages at GCSE.

Staff are highly dedicated and their provision of extra-curricular clubs and activities is much valued. There are visits and an exchange to France and a trip to Spain. Our lunchtime and afterschool clubs include KS3 Languages club and French and Spanish KS4 Speaking clubs.

The Modern Languages rooms are grouped on the ground floor around a department base. These five full sized teaching rooms are also used as tutor bases. Each teaching room is equipped with a smart board, and the base is well resourced with a trolley of 30 new computers, some digital voice recorders and a plethora of resources and props – dressing up clothes, wigs etc. Access to IT facilities in IT rooms is also available.

Since September 2017 the department has taught French to one population of Year 7 (approx. 140 students) and Spanish to the other half. About 40% of the cohort will continue with a foreign language in KS4 in September.

In lessons, students are grouped by ability in English in Year 7 and MFL in Years 8 and 9. We follow the Studio and Viva KS3 courses to the end of book 2 and in Year 9 we start using the GCSE coursebooks, mostly at Foundation level, to aim to get a head start in KS4. Student progress is continually monitored, using SIMS and SISRA, to ensure the appropriate level of progress is being made. Assessment for Learning is an integral part of planning and practice.

Student voice is a significant force throughout the school and it has helped shape our current practice. Links with Truro College and the Universities at Plymouth and Exeter provide gateways for our students to further develop their language skills.