



Modern Foreign Languages at South Nottinghamshire Academy

"Our mission is to enable students to have a love for languages, to respect different cultures and to deepen their understanding of the modern world.

The development of communication skills, together with an understanding of language structure, lay the foundations for future study of other languages and support the development of literacy skills in a pupil's own language."

SNA MFL Department 2023

The department is seeking an enthusiastic, resourceful language teacher who has the capabilities to teach Spanish to KS5 and ideally another language at KS3 (but not essential).

The successful applicant will join a department of 4 experienced language teachers who work as a team to deliver lessons in Spanish, German and French across Key Stages 3-5. The department is passionate about delivering high-quality lessons that are adequately challenging and that engage students through interactive and collaborative activities. We are proud to be able to offer three languages, and currently all pupils in KS3 study Spanish, with approximately 80% of them also studying a second language.

As a department, we aim to:

- Ensure all students have the best possible opportunities for success in MFL through consistent high-quality teaching and learning.
- Create an environment which prioritises supporting teachers in feeling confident in their practice.
- Provide regular opportunities for professional collaboration in order to recognise individual strengths, share best practice and network with other Trust schools.

KS3 and KS4 Curriculum

Our curriculum is built on the 3 pillars of language learning:

1. Phonics
2. Vocabulary
3. Grammar

We place a strong emphasis on the teaching of phonics at the beginning of KS3. This is to improve the confidence of speaking a foreign language with students from an early age and to also support the new GCSE where dictation is now a skill that is assessed.

We introduce authentic literacy in KS3 to facilitate students working independently from the beginning of Year 7.

We use Viva/Dynamo/Stimmt in KS3, and the OUP course books for AQA with Kerboodle for GCSE and A level.

We use Pearson Activelearn and Memrise/Quizlet to provide personalised, comprehensive and scaffolded homework which has a clear purpose and which students understand. Students are supported and encouraged to complete homework to a high standard and can use the weekly homework memrise club for support if they need to.

At KS4, we endeavour to set students in tiered groups but this is not always possible. Therefore, the resources used to deliver lessons are largely scaffolded to support students who are on the Foundation and Higher GCSE. Where possible, teachers follow their groups throughout Key Stage 4 to provide consistency in this important time. The 2021/22 results at GCSE reflect the ongoing success of the department, with 75% of students achieving grade 5-9 and 27% achieving grade 7-9 across the 3 languages.

Enrichment

We are passionate about giving students the opportunity to experience different cultures first-hand. We have recently started to reintroduce trips abroad post-Covid. We currently have a Paris & Normandy trip planned this summer with Year 10, and aim to relaunch a trip to Barcelona in 2025. We also have a cross-curricular Berlin trip planned with History for Christmas 2023.

Along with residential trips, the department also works hard to promote the uptake of MFL post-KS4. We run language trips to the University of Nottingham and work closely with the school's careers advisor to invite speakers to talk to the students about studying languages at University and the employment opportunities languages offer.

Miss N Jones

Head of Modern Foreign Languages