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**THE CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL – MFL Department**

Facilities

The department comprises two well sized and well placed rooms in the school, right next to each other, making it easier to work together as a department. We also have a large space for storage of all equipment and resources needed for teaching and learning. Both classrooms are large and hold a full class easily with space for the teacher to move around and the light and airy aspects of the rooms makes for a lovely teaching environment.

Key Stage 3

At KS3 (Year 7 and 8) all students enjoy 3 hour long lessons a fortnight. At KS3 all students study either French or Spanish. We also have a small group of students studying German GCSE after school. KS3 Spanish and French currently follow the EPI method developed by Gianfranco Conti, a teaching approach that focusses on language acquisition through developing processing skills.

Key Stage 4

Students at KS4 have 5 hour long sessions a fortnight. We currently have one class of French and Spanish in years 9, 10 and 11. The KS4 curriculum follows the Viva and Studio and GCSE books but also incorporates some of the principals of the EPI method to develop the students processing skills with the language. Our exam board is AQA and we comprehensively work through the eight main units of study in the GCSE Viva and Studio books to cover the three themes in preparation for the exams.

Beyond The Curriculum

We are currently planning our first two residential trips in March/ April 2024 and intend to continue to run similar trips in the future. We are working hard to develop the wider position of languages in the school and possess Foundation International School Accreditation. We expose students to a diet of cultural learning and appreciation through the schools Cultural Capital programme, and planned international themed days and through cultural and careers-based homework tasks. In addition, we have a Language Leader Program for our Year 8 Students which involves them planning and delivering lessons to local primary school children.

Staffing

The department is small but well-staffed with one full time members of staff and two part-time members, all of whom are subject specialists of French and/ or Spanish.

December 2024