



## Languages at Woking High School

### **Bienvenue! ¡Bienvenido!**

Our very successful Languages Department has improved their results yearly over the last five years, reaching the top 10 schools in Surrey in terms of value added for the last 2 consecutive years. Our attainment is strong with 90% of our students achieving grades 4 and above at GCSE Spanish (50% for grade 7 and above) and 84% in French (37% for grade 7 and above) in 2019. Students taking a Language at GCSE is on the rise with currently 60% of students studying a Language at KS4.

### **Staffing and structure**

The Head of MFL leads the Department which consists of six full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. All of whom teach at least two languages. The Subject Leader has the overview of all initiatives and practices. The Head of Department is supported by a second in Department who has some responsibility for Spanish.

### **Accommodation**

The Department is located on the first floor of the main building and has its own office with five working stations. The vast majority of language lessons take place in one of the six dedicated language classrooms. All of these classrooms are equipped with a projector, a whiteboard and a desk top computer. Larger computer suites are available to book. The Department is keen to promote a positive and productive environment for learning based on the latest cognitive research. This is enhanced by the high standard of behaviour that we promote in our lessons and in the Languages area.

### **Pedagogy**

As of September 2020, the MFL Department has embraced a lexico-grammar approach with the use of Extensive Processing Instructions (EPI) in their teaching. We follow the MARS EARS approach and the Department has seen significant improvement to students' learning. The Department meet every Tuesday to plan lessons together for all Year 8 classes and review Year 7 lessons with a vision to extend the approach to all KS3 lessons by the end of July 2023.

### **Courses**

All students at KS3 study one language: French or Spanish. Students at Woking High School are encouraged to continue studying a language to GCSE and their numbers are expected to increase in the future.

Year 7 students in top bands in English are being taught Latin. At the end of Year 7, the more able Latin students are selected to continue to study the Language at KS3. This language can be followed through to GCSE accreditation.

At Key Stage 3, the Expo and Studio textbooks are used to teach French and Mira in Spanish. At Key Stage 4, the AQA Specification is currently studied in French and Spanish and the Department acquired Viva and Studio resources in September 2016. Additionally, a small number of students enter for GCSE language examinations in their native language. In past years these have included Russian, Urdu, Polish and Italian.

The Department values ICT as a key resource to enhance the learning of our students. Opportunities are made to use ICT, including web-based resources (e.g.: Quizlet), whenever possible.

### **Enrichment activities**

The Department places great emphasis on the students not only learning about the language, but also key aspects of the foreign culture. Residential trips to France and Spain are always popular. The Department is always looking for ways to develop and extend the range of visits it offers.

All Year 7 students enter the Routes in Languages Spelling Bee competition and our Year 8 students enter the Translation Bee competition.