



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

German Department

Staffing

Mr D Thomson	Head of Department
Mrs C Gardner	Teacher of German
Miss Todd	Teacher of German and French

German is taught at KS3 and one language is compulsory at KS4.
A Level is taught collaboratively with other schools in the Foundation.

Examinations

Students follow the AQA specifications for GCSE and A Level German.

Examination Results

It is compulsory for students to study at least one language at KS4, however we do have a number of dual linguists each year. German is a popular choice at GCSE, with this year about 40% of the cohort choosing to continue with German in KS4. Results are very good with very many pupils achieving grades 7-9 in recent years.

Currently we have 2 pupils studying German in Year 12, and hope to strengthen numbers in future years.

Trips and Enrichment

The German department offers a Key Stage 3 trip the Rhineland for approximately 40 Year 9 pupils. We stay in a small town on the banks of the Rhine, enjoy a river cruise, 2 guided castle visits, and a day *PhantasieLand*, one of Europe's leading theme parks.

Timetable

We operate a fortnightly timetable and lessons are 50 minutes long. At KS3 we have three lessons a fortnight, (four in Year 7) five at KS4 and eleven at KS5.

Picture of Y10 pupils listening to our guest speaker on Languages.



Accommodation

The German department has 2 classrooms which are well equipped with projectors, interactive whiteboards, and visualisers. We have an in-house curriculum which focuses on the EPI approach to learning languages. We have a collection of German reading books in the library for all key stages as well as subscriptions to excellent digital learning platforms. As well as facilities in the German department, we also have access to five bookable ICT suites each with 32 computers.

Courses Taught

KS3

During Key Stage 3, pupils will learn to give justified opinions on a range of topics as well as handling key regular and irregular verbs in 3 different time frames. They will develop their breadth and depth of vocabulary whilst working on the language learning skills of reading, translating into German and English, listening, speaking and writing.

Year 7:

Personal Information
My family
Sports and Hobbies
Food and Drink

Year 8:

Where I live
Clothes
Seasons and Weather
Holidays

Year 9:

Relationships
Healthy Living
School and Future Plans

GCSE

The GCSE curriculum builds on the work and skills covered in KS3 and includes familiar topics such as what you do in your leisure time, what you think of your home town and where you like to go on holiday. In addition, more mature topics are covered including global environment, marriage and relationships, celebrity culture, and customs and festivals.

A Level

4 themes are studied over the 2 years:

Aspects of German-speaking society
Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
Aspects of Political Life in the German-speaking world
Political Life

In addition, we study the film *Goodbye Lenin!* by Wolfgang Becker the literary work, *Der Besuch der alten Dame* by Swiss dramatist, Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Further Information

As a department, our vision is:

- To help students develop a sense of cultural identity, along with an openness to, and an appreciation of other cultures
- To foster pupils' intellectual curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world, as well as giving them a better understanding of their role as world citizens and an empathetic appreciation of the cultural diversity prevalent in German-speaking nations.
- To equip our pupils, in a globalised world, characterised by international links and intercultural connections, with the linguistic skills to enhance career opportunities and personal development.

D Thomson
Head of German
2025