

TEACHER OF MODERN LANGUAGES/FRENCH

from September 2021

The Post

We are looking for an enthusiastic, committed teacher of French to join our successful and ambitious department. As a result of pupils' very positive experience and progress in Key Stage 3, languages are now core at GCSE and we have excellent results at A-level.

The Department

We are a department of eight specialist linguists all of whom teach both French and German at KS3. Five staff specialise in one language for GCSE and A-level; three colleagues offer both. At A level our work is supported by our language assistants in French and German.

Languages are now part of the core: the presumption is that everyone will take either French or German (or both) for GCSE unless there is a valid reason why this would not be appropriate for the student. E. Bacc has influenced this, but our numbers were growing long before that as a result of the work we have done in Key Stage 3 to make the curriculum relevant, engaging and rigorous. We recently planned our KS3 curriculum for this year and beyond so that it offers carefully sequenced, broad and rich programmes of study which benefit from educational research in areas such as metacognition, scaffolding, interleaving and modelling.

Our outcomes at GCSE and A Level reflect the hard work of the pupils and the department. Even with 85% of students now sitting an examination in a language, outcomes remain higher than national averages.

Currently all pupils start with French in Year 7 for 5 x 1-hour periods per fortnight. This changes after Christmas to 3 lessons of French and 2 of German. In Year 8 pupils continue with both French and German for 3 hours per language per fortnight, and then most choose to specialise in just one. In Year 9 students study their choice of language for 4 lessons per fortnight, they continue with 4 hours per fortnight in Year 10, when the GCSE course starts, and then have 5 lessons per fortnight in Year 11.

The department is well-resourced with interactive screens in our recently refurbished suite of teaching rooms. We use printed and digital resources from the Pearson Dynamo, Stimmt and Studio ranges, supplemented extensively by our own electronic bank of material and various online subscriptions. At A level we use Hodder resources in both languages to prepare for the Edexcel exams. We use our VLE across all 3 key stages.

To inspire our students and bring their languages to life the school runs an annual one week residential for **all** Year 8 pupils to northern France or Belgium. This is a huge exercise, and the benefits to pupils are immense. They study history, geography, RS, and citizenship all in a French-speaking environment, and take part in visits and experiences that stay with them

throughout their school lives and, we hope, well beyond. The department also runs a trip to Berlin for Year 10 and 12 students. They explore the main attractions of the area, practising their German and experiencing the culture first-hand. There is also an annual French/Art trip to Paris for Year 10 and 12, where students explore Paris by metro, taking in the key sites and finding out about culture and language.

The successful candidate will join a very professional and committed team. The culture is strongly collegial, with staff working together to ensure a high quality of provision for all pupils. We are looking for a hard-working and innovative teacher who loves their subject and wants to share it with our engaging and ambitious students, who want to do well, work hard, and enjoy success.
