# Modern Languages Department

# Modern Languages at Newton Abbot College

Students study either Spanish or French at the college and as a department, we are very proud of the growth that we have seen in recent years. Newton Abbot College students enjoy their languages lessons and are engaged in their learning, resulting in some fantastic GCSE results. Last year 93% of Spanish and 79% of French students achieved a grade 4+ , exceeding national averages in both subjects. Studying a language at GCSE is rapidly becoming the norm at Newton Abbot College with 70% of our Year 11 and 90% of Year 10 students studying a language.

# Approach

Over recent years we have worked hard to create innovative, engaging and well-sequenced schemes of work in each key stage which provide consistency across teaching groups whilst still offering the flexibility for teachers to put their stamp on their lessons. We always strive to further improve our practice by engaging in current educational conversations and using a research-based approach to our teaching and learning.

Lessons are interactive, dynamic and engaging and when asked recently, Year 11 students had the following things to say about their languages lessons: *“I enjoy the learning atmosphere and how the learning techniques are different to other lessons. We do lots of speaking!”, “I really like the variety of tasks and ways of learning in my languages lessons. Also the thought of learning about the language and culture of another country is interesting.”* and *“I enjoy my languages lessons because every lesson is different, at no point during my time learning Spanish have I been bored of doing the same thing over and over.”* I think their words sum up what we are aiming for!

We appreciate that sometimes students find it difficult to see the relevance of languages to their lives in coastal Devon, so we have worked hard to raise the profile of the importance of language study and to be explicit about the varied and exciting careers that knowing a language can lead to.

**The Team**

There are currently three full time and three part time members of staff in the team, with a spread of language specialisms, which we always aim to accommodate when assigning classes. We pride ourselves on the consistency of our approach and subject team meetings are held regularly so that we continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning, as well as sharing good practice ideas, and resources. We are excited about recruiting a passionate linguist who will have the same drive for success and further develop teaching, learning and engagement in Modern Languages across all of the key stages.

# Resources and Teaching Rooms

The Department is located in the main college building and has dedicated teaching rooms. All rooms are fitted with digital projectors, whiteboards and visualisers. There are full sets of mini-whiteboards in each classroom. We subscribe to iViva! and Studio! to support our GCSE courses.

# Extra-curricular opportunities

As a department, we understand the importance of immersion and its role in inspiring and engaging students and we have run many successful immersion trips over recent years to Spain and France. Last summer we took over 120 Year 9 and Year 10 students abroad with all members of the department heading off on these trips. We have also run a range of extra-curricular opportunities closer to home including a successful film club and trips to The Languages Show in London.

# Timetable and Curriculum

The College operates a five-period day and has a two week timetable. Year 7 and 8 students study either Spanish or French as part of their Key Stage 3 curriculum. We do not use textbooks at Key Stage 3 and have designed our own bespoke curriculum. The vast majority of students continue with this language to GCSE level. We use AQA as our exam board

A-Level Spanish and A-Level French (AQA) are both offered as part of the Post-16 curriculum.

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