



*"Achievement by  
Faith and Work"*

# **The Modern Foreign Languages Department**

## **Information for prospective applicants**

### **Ethos**

Our vision is to enable students to develop a love for language learning and to be able to communicate effectively and confidently in the foreign languages studied, using the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

By studying a Modern Foreign Language, our students gain

- a broader knowledge and understanding of other cultures and ways of thinking;
- a deeper knowledge of language systems (including that of their own language); and
- a sense of empowerment that competence in other languages brings.

We want our students to benefit from increased enjoyment of travel and other cultures, enhanced cognitive skills, and improved employment opportunities that the study of a foreign language can bring.

### **Personnel**

The Department comprises:

- Winifred Monaghan Head of Modern Foreign Languages
- Sylvie Pinnington French teacher (part-time)
- Margaret Torpey French and Spanish teacher (part-time)
- Gaëlle Leroux French and Spanish teacher (part-time)

The vacancy arises due to the retirement of a long-serving colleague who taught French and German.

### **Curriculum**

The Languages offer in our curriculum has evolved over the last few years. Currently, in Years 7 and 8 all students are taught both Spanish and French (for 90 minutes per week), generally in mixed ability classes. At the end of Year 8, students choose one language for Year 9, and study it for 180 minutes per week; by this stage, students are set by prior attainment. Our present curriculum structure does not allow for students to take both languages through to GCSE.

Students may opt to take French or Spanish in Key Stage 4; in the current Year 10, for example, 36 students have opted to take an MFL, split equally between the two languages. Both languages follow Eduqas specifications at GCSE. We are keen to increase the uptake of languages in Key Stage 4, and to build viable 'A'-level groups in both languages. (Each year we offer an AQA 'A'-level in French, though currently there are insufficient numbers for us to be able to run the course).

### **Accommodation, specifications and resources**

Resources include dedicated Language classrooms, equipped with multi-media projectors and interactive whiteboards. Collaborative resources and challenging schemes of learning serve the needs of students across the age and ability range. All students are regularly assessed to check and address progress. When possible, in-class support is offered by Teaching Assistants.

### **Standards**

Standards at GCSE have been encouraging, and the Department is working hard (*eg* through the production of collaborative resources) to ensure learners make even more rapid progress in the future.

*Winifred Monaghan*