

The Chantry School

Modern Foreign Languages Department Information for candidates

Modern Foreign Languages is an established and very successful department made up of two full time and two part time members of staff. We teach both French and German to KS3 and KS4 level. Teachers in the department teach both French and German in KS3 but are able to teach their preferred language at KS4. We would like to welcome another colleague who is able to offer both languages at KS3 and ideally, but not necessarily, also at KS4.

Curriculum structure and GCSE results

All Year 7s learn both French and German for five lessons a fortnight. At the end of the year, they choose which of the two languages they want to continue to study till the end of Year 9. Pupils have six lessons a fortnight in Year 8 and five lessons a fortnight in Year 9. At KS4 we do not make languages compulsory, however the school supports and values the importance of a language at GCSE with increasingly positive impact on the uptake of our subject. In fact, next year we will have three teaching groups which we will teach for 5 hours a fortnight. We follow the AQA specification at KS4.

Our results are always something to be celebrated:

German: 89% 9-4 in 2024; 79% 9-4 in 2023

French: 83% 9-4 in 2024; 79% 9-4 in 2023

Last year, 35% of pupils taking French gained a grade 7 or above and in German 33% a Grade 9-7.

Our approach to teaching languages & Extra-curricular offer

Our pedagogical approach to teaching languages is innovative and based on the principles of the Extensive Processing Instruction by Dr Gianfranco Conti and these include: the teaching of “chunks” through sentence builders, the focus on Listening and Reading as Modelling, 95% Comprehensible Input, the MARS EARS sequencing, the interleaving of core grammar structures called “language universals”. We are now on our journey to develop fluency and spontaneity in our pupils’ use of the target language, and we are preparing for the challenges of the new GCSE specification.

Languages cannot be taught without the cultural experiences which naturally go with them. We pride ourselves on the exceptional number of enrichment opportunities we offer to our pupils. Because of this, we have managed to build a strong presence and high profile of languages across the wider school community. Our pupils do A-level film studies adapted for GCSE, take part in extra-curricular clubs such as the World Cinema Club or in whole-school house competitions such as the Map Project. They experience the Onatti theatre plays, an Oktoberfest and a French Café and take part in prestigious international projects such as the UK-German Connection. In Year 8 we offer a trip to Freiburg & Alsace.

We are very fortunate to be able to offer to our pupils the opportunity to participate in both a French exchange and a German exchange. We have a well-established link with the Collège Camille Saint-Saëns in Chaumont, Haute Marne, in France and with the Goethe-Gymnasium in Bensheim, Hesse in Germany.

We need a colleague who will support the provision of these extracurricular opportunities and who has a desire to enthuse pupils with a love of language learning and other cultures, as well as promote and maintain high academic standards.

Resources and rooming

We have three dedicated large classrooms, all with interactive whiteboards, which have been recently renovated, and a lovely MFL office. We use current textbooks (Stimmt, Dynamo and Studio) to support our curriculum planning, and we have done a lot of collaborative planning over the years which have significantly reduced our workload. As a result, most lessons in our Scheme of Work have resources ready to be used.

If you require further information...

Please do not hesitate to contact the school; please ask for Ambrogio De Santis, Head of Languages, or email adesantis@chantryschool.com. We would love to show you around our school and department.