

**MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**DEPARTMENT**



“Empowering all to achieve”

**Teacher of MFL (French and Spanish)**

**Why choose us?**

Severn Vale is a very special place. It has a particularly friendly, professional body of teachers and support staff and the successful applicant is guaranteed to be well supported within and beyond the MFL Team. As a new member of staff, you will receive a comprehensive induction programme. In our most recent Ofsted inspection (February 2020), they describe what it is like to attend Severn Vale School thus;

*The school provides a calm, orderly environment in which pupils can learn. Teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Positive relationships between staff and pupils support pupils’ learning. Teachers make learning interesting, and pupils are keen to take part. Behaviour is good.*

Severn Vale strives to deliver nothing but the very best experience for our students both academically and through strong systems of care, guidance and support. As such, our biggest asset are our wonderful staff who all share a common vision for our students and school based around a set of core beliefs, further details of which can be found in the “School” section of our website. In summary;

* **We have high expectations of our students and staff**
* **We are, above all else, a place of learning for students and staff**
* **We go the extra mile to help students achieve**
* We provide and believe in **a values based education**
* **We work together – students, staff and home united in the same common purpose**

We are a teacher centred school demonstrated by our focus on looking after and growing great teachers. We have a very high staff retention rate and believe that our focus on staff - who are our greatest asset - is one of our strengths. Attached is a copy of our “Workload Pledges” which outlines our philosophy in this area. In 2020, Ofsted’s discussions with staff and observations of the school revealed that;

*Staff appreciate the work leaders have done to reduce workload. Leaders are supportive and listen to staff. This helps to ensure that staff receive the support and development they need. Staff are happy to work at the school and say they are proud of their school*

Our approach to curriculum is via a shared vision of what makes effective pedagogy; “The Big 3” – subject knowledge, assessment and feedback and language and literacy.



At Severn Vale School we believe that, to learn, students need to:

1. Know, understand and be able to readily recall a breadth and depth of knowledge in each subject area they study
2. Clearly understand what they know and don’t know / can and can’t do in each subject area and what they need to do become better
3. Be given the linguistic tools to enable them to write academically and apply their knowledge as well as read and comprehend texts across a range of genres

In practice, these “Big 3” principles translate as:

* The use of both lesson time and homework to embed key subject knowledge through the use of knowledge organisers, glossaries and regular knowledge testing based on the principles of interleaving and distributed revision
* An ongoing focus on formative assessment in the classroom which is frequent, specific and interleaved to embed knowledge and skills with summative assessments carried out once a year only (Year 7-10) to measure progress with no other summative assessment points or academic data collections during the year
* The development of the linguistic skills needed to become more literate users of language for success at school and in life. These skills and the tools staff need to employ to teach them are developed through a cross-curricular programme called “How Language Works”
* A high profile for reading across the school with a range of reading based activities occur throughout the school week and across the year to improve students reading skills and inculcate a lifelong love of reading and, therefore, learning. These include the use of:
* Book clubs for staff, parents and students
* Guided reading in every tutor group during morning Prep
* Activities during World Book Month including a “Big Read” and themed activities pertinent to each year

We believe that centralised policies around teaching and learning do not allow teachers to develop as subject specialists. As such, the way in which the principles above are applied in each curriculum area is designed, developed and reviewed by each team, led by the Subject Leader / Head of Department.

**The MFL Department**

The MFL Department is a committed and collaborative team with high expectations and a common sense of purpose. Our aim is to encourage all our students to develop their understanding of other cultures and become enthusiastic about language learning. We regularly hold departmental meetings and learning sessions to enable staff to join together to discuss, share and develop teaching ideas, strategies, experiences and resources where everyone is valued for the contributions they make.

The Teaching Staff:

* Lindsey Wright – Head of Department
* Claire Male – Head of Spanish
* Charlotte Edwards – Teacher of French and Spanish
* Sabrina Ratinaud – Teacher of French and Spanish
* Elise Siracusa – Teacher of French and Spanish

We currently use Dynamo and Viva at KS3 and Pearson’s French and Spanish KS4 resources to support the Edexcel GCSE courses which we follow. In addition to this, there are many digital resources to ensure a variety of activities for our students. Students are taught in sets from the start of Year 7 onwards.

Literacy, Assessment for Learning and achievement are currently the foci for development in the department. The GCSE results over the last five years have risen steadily to over 80% (grades 4+), so the successful candidate must be committed to motivating students, be able to use data to track and monitor the progress of all students and provide appropriate support to ensure they achieve to the very best of their ability.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reflective teacher of Spanish and French who will bring their own ideas and love of teaching to the classroom. As well as being an excellent classroom practitioner, you will also demonstrate the following attributes:

* The ability to work effectively as a team
* Creative and pro-active approach to learning
* The ability/interest to develop our links with abroad

Thank you for your interest. We are excited by the opportunity to welcome a new, energetic, committed and reflective colleague who, with high expectations for all, will empower and enable our students to achieve.

The information here gives but a brief taste of the fantastic, innovative school and the friendly, supportive, and passionate group of staff you will be joining if you choose to apply to work at Severn Vale. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us to arrange a visit before applying if you wish to see us “in action”. Equally, Lindsey is happy to speak to potential applicants about the role and the department.

We very much look forward to receiving your application for this post.

Kirsten Prescott Lindsey Wright

Deputy Headteacher and MFL Line Manager Subject Leader for MFL