

MODERN LANGUAGES FACULTY

Aims:

The faculty has a highly supportive hard-working staff, committed to helping pupils achieve their full potential. The aims of the faculty fully support those of the school, whilst striving to:

- Develop the ability to understand and use the chosen foreign language effectively for the purposes of practical communication;
- Develop the ability to use the chosen language both imaginatively and creatively and to understand the language;
- Develop an understanding of the grammar of the chosen language through a diet of contextualised authentic sources and explicit coaching;
- Develop a sense of passion and commitment to Languages;
- Offer insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries and communities that speak the chosen language;
- Encourage positive attitudes to foreign language learning and to speakers of foreign languages and a positive approach to other cultures and civilisations;
- Develop students' understanding of themselves and their own culture;
- Provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation;
- Form a sound base of skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure;
- Promote skills, which have a wider application such as information technology, and learning skills (e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing inference);
- Promote high expectations and methods that cater well for all pupils;
- Encourage pupils to develop informed opinions and be able to support them by reasoned argument.

Facilities:

The faculty has seven dedicated teaching rooms, two of which are equipped with computers. All are equipped with interactive whiteboards.

Staffing:

The structure of the Faculty is, as follows:

Erica D'Anna	Head of Faculty	French, Spanish
Carmel Grace	Head of German	German, French
Carmen Gomez		Spanish
Nicola Georgeson		French
Natalie Murphy	Maternity leave	French, Spanish
<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Maternity cover</i>	Spanish
Marie Lowrie		German (Part time)
Lupe Rangel	Head of Y8	Spanish

Language lessons

All pupils are offered 4 hours per fortnight of Spanish in Year 7. In Year 8, students study either French or German for an additional 3 hours/fortnight. Rainhill students then take their options in March of Year 9. In KS4 students have 5 hours of language lessons per fortnight of each of their chosen languages. In Year 11 students sit their GCSE with AQA. In addition to the timetabled sessions, students have personalized learning programmes

designed to enhance their pronunciation, intonation and fluency, whilst building their confidence in speaking, which is gradually becoming, for many students, the strongest skill.

Sixth Form:

French, Spanish and German AQA 'A' Levels are offered, with small classes and personalized support.

GCSE	2022	French	German	Spanish
		7- 9 - 39%	7- 9 – 18%	7- 9 – 4%
		4-9 - 83%	4-9 - 78%	4-9 – 78%
A Level	2022	A*/A – 33%	A*/A 20%	A*/A 25%
		A-E – 100%	A-E 100%	A-E 100%

Extra-curricular:

Our students have the opportunity to experience the target language culture via trips to Spain, France and Germany. This year students have been offered the opportunity to visit Berlin in conjunction with the History department and Malaga/Granada in Spain. In the past we have offered trips to Alicante, Granada, Normandy, Berlin, Paris and we successfully ran a French Exchange in 2018 with a school near Metz. More overseas excursions are in the pipeline for the coming years for 6th formers. Additionally, students are immersed in the culture of target language countries via music, film clubs and competitions, which include an inter-house European Languages Day.

Last year we launched our Language Ambassadors. These are run by our 6th formers in each language and have been immensely successful! As a celebration we organised a trip to a French, Spanish and German restaurant.

Students are a welcome presence in our Faculty, to enhance linguistic skills, develop new linguistic-cultural skills. We have an open-door policy at lunchtime and after school and relationships-first teaching pervades our daily disciplines.

Erica D'Anna

Head of Faculty – Modern Foreign Languages