



Languages at Woking High School

Bienvenue! ¡Bienvenido!

Languages at Woking High School are taught by a team of dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working teachers. We are proud of being able to offer such a wide choice of languages from Year 7 onwards. These are French, Spanish and Latin.

Staffing and structure

At present, the department is staffed by 6 full-time teachers and 1 part-time teacher (4 days a week). All of whom teach at least 2 languages.

Accommodation

The majority of language lessons take place in dedicated language classrooms. All of these classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and desk top computers. One classroom within the department has 6 PCs. Larger computer suites are available to book. The department is keen to promote a positive and productive environment for learning. This is enhanced by our use of displays, both in the corridor and in the language classrooms, and the high standard of behaviour that we promote in our lessons and in the languages area.

Courses

As of September 2018, all students in Year 7 will be only studying one MFL: French or Spanish. On top of that, a small cohort of students will be offered the opportunity to study Mandarin. In Year 8, students study French or Spanish and some students also study Latin. Students at Woking High School are encouraged to continue studying a language to GCSE and currently 50% of students decide to do so.

Year 7 students in top bands in English are being taught Latin. At the end of Year 7, the more able Latin students are selected to continue to study the Language at KS3. This language can be followed through to GCSE accreditation.

At Key Stage 3, the Expo and Studio textbooks are used to teach French and Mira in Spanish. At Key Stage 4, the AQA Specification is currently studied in all of the above languages and the Department acquired Viva and Studio resources in September 2016. Additionally, a small number of students enter for GCSE language examinations in their native language. In past years these have included Russian, Urdu, Polish and Italian.

The department values ICT as a key resource to enhance the learning of our students. Opportunities are made to use ICT, including web-based resources (e.g.: Vocab Express), whenever possible.

Enrichment activities

The department places great emphasis on the students not only learning about the language but also key aspects of the foreign culture. Currently, annual exchanges are planned with a school in France. A trip to Spain has also been organised in recent years to enhance students' use of Spanish. The department is always looking for ways to develop and extend the range of visits it offers.

At Key Stage 3, language homework clubs are held, providing our students with the opportunity to extend their language skills whilst having fun! At Key Stage 4, a number of weekly revision classes ensure our students have access to a structured programme of revision and a forum in which to raise issues regarding their exams outside of class time.

Day 11

On fixed days during the academic year, students follow a special programme designed to enhance their learning experience. This year the department has run a Translation of Disney Songs Day for Year 8 students, a celebration of festivals around the world for Year 7 students, a Culture Vulture day for Year 9 students and a visit from a local 6th form college to work with our Year 11 students.