



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The boys at St. Columba's College study either French or Spanish from Form 1, and we aim to give them a solid grounding in their chosen language before they begin GCSE study in Form 3. We offer both languages at KS4 and KS5, and the majority of our A Level linguists go on to study languages as part of their degree.

In Forms 1 and 2 and we study the Studio course in French, and the Viva course in Spanish. These course books both utilise high quality ICT packages, and these are used frequently in language lessons. Our suite of 4 dedicated languages classrooms is equipped with Smartboard software and we also have access to the College's ICT rooms to consolidate topic work or use the MFL software to which we have subscribed.

When they opt for a language at GCSE the boys use textbooks and ICT resources linked to the AQA exam specification, and also spend some time each week with a Foreign Language Assistant. We also offer a number of lunchtime support sessions and clubs staffed by all members of the department and these are very well attended. Starting in Form 3 also ensures that we can build up the boys' confidence and to give them greater exposure to the course.

The luxury of smaller class sizes at Key Stage 5 enables the boys to learn in a much more focussed environment and we are keen to expose our 6th Form linguists to a wide range of linguistic opportunities, from trips and work experience visits to plays, films and university study days. Most of the team teach at least one of their languages at Key Stage 5 and each 6th Form class benefits from the combined experience of at least two teachers. We currently prepare them for the AQA award.

Within our team of 5 full time and 2 part time staff are several native speakers, and all of us are proficient in at least two languages. This enables us to develop our own linguistic competence on an internal basis as well as ensuring each member of the team teaches a broad variety of MFL classes.

We are keen to support the boys to becoming keen independent linguists and the use of ICT has become a key development area in the last few years. Similarly, our extra-curricular and enrichment offer is being extended year on year and we currently run trips and study visits to Córdoba, Valencia, Lyon and Paris. It is hoped that both of these elements of our teaching will further aid the boys' learning and encourage them to become lifelong linguists.