

Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish

Background

Spanish was introduced as a new subject, replacing French, at the start of the 2017-18 academic year. Four classes in Year 7 study Spanish, and four classes in Year 8 study Spanish, both as a compulsory subject. Two classes in Year 9 study Spanish and one class in Year 10 studies Spanish. Both Year 9 and Year 10 students have elected to study Spanish as an optional subject. The current Year 9 and 10 classes are following a fast-track *ab initio* (beginners) GCSE course.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8)

KS3 Spanish is delivered in Years 7 and 8 through three 60 minute lessons per fortnight, and homework (either learning or written) is set once a week. We follow the Mira Express course supplemented by a electronic and other printed resources, ensuring that a variety of activities is offered to suit every type of learner. We also subscribe to vocabexpress.com.

Students are assessed on each key language skill: listening, reading, speaking and writing. They are assessed in vocabulary, grammar and translation. By the end of KS3 we expect most students to achieve at least grade 4, while the good linguists should be reaching a grade 5 or 6. Students are rewarded with points on Behaviour Watch in line with whole School policy at KS3.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11)

Spanish is an optional subject at KS4 and good linguists are encouraged to study the language at GCSE level via the E-Bac pathway. The time allocation for KS4 is five 60 minute lessons per fortnight.

We currently use the AQA examination board for GCSE Spanish. Students are assessed on reading, writing, listening and speaking, with each examination attracting 25% of the final grade awarded.

Students study all of the following themes on which the GCSE examinations are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Formal GCSE assessment is by examination only at the end of Year 11, but a comprehensive programme of formative and summative assessment is delivered throughout the KS4 course.

Facilities

The department uses language software programmes that can be accessed at home as well as school. Interactive whiteboards are in every classroom, using Promethean board software (ActivInspire) as part of our normal daily teaching.