



St Philomena's

Catholic High School for Girls

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Modern Languages is a thriving department. The department consists of six full-time and two part-time members of staff. The department is suited in classrooms equipped with audio-visual resources. They are enhanced by computer networking and interactive whiteboards. In addition, every class has a timetabled lesson once a week in our state-of-the-art Language Lab. The department has developed an inductive, communicative approach to teaching languages based on active use of the target language and learning styles.

In Year 7 and Year 8 all students will study French or Spanish, with the top two sets having the opportunity to take up the other as a second language in the second term. In Year 9, students continue with at least one language. In the Sixth Form, French and Spanish are offered at A level. All courses at GCSE and A level follow AQA specifications.

Members of the department contribute materials and resources to an online bank to which the whole team can access so that ideas can be shared and resources adapted for individual classes. In Key Stage 3 students have access to online textbooks ('Zoom' for Spanish and 'Allez' for French) and at Key Stage 4 and 5 each student has access to our online AQA resource 'Kerboodle'.

First-hand experience of using the foreign language is considered a vital part of the students' learning experience. At Key Stage 4, Exchange Visits to France and Spain are offered and Sixth Former students are encouraged to participate in a work experience exchange programme in Belgium. We are currently seeking to offer a similar opportunity to students studying Spanish at A Level.

We take the view that the most important resource in the classroom is the teacher, and so professional development is given a high priority within our work. The department meets regularly for methodology sessions, which seek to develop and hone our teaching skills according to our particular in-house style. Our approach is distinctive in that the whole department strives to teach in the target language and develops students' competence through the use of classroom routines to motivate and immerse students in the use of the foreign language, primarily through speaking. We use songs, games, puzzles, competitions, card games and interactive whiteboard activities. English is used to teach grammar.

The department contributes significantly to a range of cross curricular projects and activities. This includes an annual Multicultural Day for Year 7. St Philomena's has International School Status, and works closely with partner schools in a number of countries including Uganda, Pakistan and Belgium. International Status provides a range of exciting opportunities for our students to link up with students in other countries.

We ask a great deal of our staff but we offer an outstanding opportunity for the right person to make a substantial impact and to develop their career in a successful, innovative school that will provide support and encouragement.

The department works well together, with all staff agreeing to their contribution towards formulating policy and supporting the important place of languages in the curriculum.

Every member of staff receives an iPad and students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 have an iPad in lessons and students in Year 8 have Chrome Books.

There is the opportunity to study for a part funded Masters in Leadership and Innovation. This is heavily subsidised by the school.