

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FACULTY

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The Languages Department is part of the International Communications Faculty, which also includes the Business Education Department and the Information Technology Department.

The faculty consists of 20 members of staff. The current faculty structure is comprised of a Head of Faculty (who is also Head of Business Studies/Economics) and two Deputy Heads of Faculty (Assessment for Learning and Teaching and Learning) who are also the Head of IT and the Head of Modern Foreign Languages.

This larger structure provides wider opportunities for professional development and greater support for individual members of staff as well as offering opportunities for broadening our range of cross-curricular activities.

The Languages Department currently comprises mainly experienced members of staff who work extremely well together and who share an ambitious vision for the department. There is a team room which serves as a base for informal and formal discussions and allows staff to share ideas and concerns in a friendly atmosphere. All members of the department contribute to the decision making process and it is expected that they share in the development of resources and participate in the evaluation and redrafting of the schemes of work and their related assessments.

The department is fully committed to the professional development of the individuals within the team and opportunities are provided for this to take place. These include one to one mentoring, in-faculty training, whole school induction and external training where appropriate. Responsibilities are shared and support provided to ensure the best possible results.

In the Languages Department, the emphasis is very much on allowing the students to acquire the tools that will equip them to develop their own learning independently through technical accuracy. The teaching of grammar is therefore an integral part of the teaching process at all levels. A differentiated approach and attractive teaching materials, along with a wealth of additional resources are used to engage students of all abilities. There is a strong emphasis on Assessment for Learning via self and peer assessment as well as regular target setting at all levels.

The department currently comprises five full time teachers and four part time teachers of French and/or German.

We have seven dedicated language classrooms, all of which are equipped with a computer projector and one of which is equipped with computers. Laptops and iPads are also available for use within the department.

The study of a language is not compulsory at KS4. Both German and French are taught at GCSE and A-level.

Class sets of textbooks are available as well as online resources. The Faculty constantly reviews materials to suit both students' learning and their examination needs especially

in view of changes made to the curriculum and the introduction of the new GCSE and A-level examinations.

All students study French **and** German in years 7 and 8 with an allocation of four teaching periods a fortnight per language in year 7 and three periods a fortnight in year 8. In year 9, students have three periods per fortnight for each language with a small number of students studying only one language. At the end of year 9, students can opt to study French, German or both languages at GCSE. Students who continue to study languages have six teaching periods per fortnight. Both French and German are taught at A-level with 10 periods per fortnight and we have very encouraging numbers of students choosing to continue with a language at A level.

AQA is our examination board for French and German at both GCSE and A-level. Textbooks include Studio in French and Stimmt in German at KS3 and KS4, with Hodder French and German for A-level in the Sixth Form.

Our examination results have been consistently above the national average. In 2019, 89% of students entered achieved 9-4 in French. In German, 98% achieved 9-4 with a good number of students achieving the top grades in both subjects. The pass rate at A level is 100%.

The department is committed to providing the highest level of teaching to students, for whom considerable support is provided but from whom we demand the highest standards!

The ability to teach both French and German may be an advantage.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding our students against radicalisation and extremism and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.