

Departmental Information

Modern Foreign Languages

The Department

There are 10 members of the Modern Foreign Languages Department teaching French, German and Spanish at all key stages, and Italian, Mandarin and Portuguese at KS4. The Department is led by Mr Duncan Broe, supported by the 2nd in Department, Ms Emma Rose, and a Key Stage 3 Coordinator, Mrs Fátima Santos.

We are passionate subject specialists with a love of teaching young people. We are ambitious for ourselves and our students. The sharing of good practice, ideas and resources is embedded into our culture. We are keen to refine what works and to change what doesn't. A love of languages, of teaching and learning are at the heart of who we are and what we do.

Facilities and Resources

The department has a suite of language rooms including an office/resources room, which is the "nerve centre" of the department.

All teaching areas are well equipped with interactive smart board and computer facilities including a wall mounted PC, speakers and a projector. This enables us to use all the exciting, interactive resources we have created, gives us access to the Internet and enables us to play sound files, CDs and DVDs in the classroom.

Having implemented the new MFL curriculum at KS3 we are now working hard to ensure that not only the language but also the culture of the French, German and Spanish speaking world are fully embraced. We are constantly reviewing what we teach and, based on student and teacher feedback, we are refining our curriculum to ensure that it is relevant, engaging and practical.

In French, German and Spanish we use a combination of bespoke resources and Kerboodle at KS3, 4 and 5. We also have extensive resources created in-house in all three languages.

Our Philosophy

Our students are at the centre of everything we do. Our lessons are focussed on joy, interaction, collaboration and communication. Our goal is to create confident, curious, fearless and flexible linguists.

Our Achievements

We have expanded our GCSE provision to 6 languages taught on the curriculum (French, German, Spanish, Mandarin, Italian and Portuguese) and recently we have supported exams in Greek, Russian, Turkish, Arabic, Urdu, Japanese, Persian, Polish and Panjabi. We have increased significantly the number of double, triple and quadruple linguists at GCSE. We have A-Level classes in French and Spanish. Our Y12 students complete their work experience abroad and almost all of our A-Level students go on to study an MFL in some capacity at university. We are a large, thriving department with a good record of trips abroad and experiences within the UK. Our students have competed annually in the Routes into Languages Spelling Bee and next year students will compete in the Translation Bee. Our students have the opportunity to visit France, Germany and Spain. There is a very successful cross-curricular exchange with the Musikschule in Brühl, Germany, which takes place on an annual basis, as well as a very popular joint Y8 and Y10 trip to Tossa de Mar in Spain. We are in the process of launching an exchange with a school in France.

The Curriculum

Our Schemes of Learning are working documents that are thorough enough to embed the requirements of the MFL curriculum and flexible enough to support the needs of our students. We offer a joy-centred, skills-based approach to learning, and we embrace the cultural aspects of the languages studied. Our curriculum encourages competencies which are transferable at every level in order to produce curious, confident and successful linguists.

Key Stage 3 (Y7 – 8)

All students in Year 7 and Year 8 learn Spanish and German or Spanish and French.

Key Stage 4 (Y9 – 11)

We prepare students for the AQA GCSE, in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Mandarin; for Portuguese we use Edexcel.

Key Stage 5 (Post-16)

We offer French, German and Spanish at KS5 and prepare students for AQA for A level.

Why Join Us?

We are deeply passionate about the teaching and learning of languages. We are a thriving, ambitious and good-humoured department. We love languages and we want our students to love them too. We want more students to study more languages for more time, because we know the transformative power of learning a language. Our department strives to get the very best out of everyone who comes onto our corridor; be that students or staff. This is reflected in our analytical, professional, forward-thinking and joy-centred approach to the teaching of MFL. Caring, developing, supporting and encouraging teachers and students is in our very nature. We are an exciting place to work.

If that sounds like something that would make you want to go to work on a dreary Monday morning; we would love to hear from you.