



# St. Olave's Grammar School, Orpington, Kent

## Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages – 2015-2016

### Staffing

Frau K. Zwanziger	M.A. (Vienna) – German and French
Mr D. Bowden	BA Hons (Lancaster) - French and German
Mlle M. Delage	Maîtrise (Limoges) - French
Ms G. Gardiner	M.A., M.M.L. (Newnham College, Cambridge) - French and Spanish
Mme C. Payne	French language assistant
Mme N. Komuves	French language assistant
Frau G. Cranenburgh	German language assistant
Sra I. Sadler	Spanish language assistant

### Ethos

We try to encourage a vibrant classroom atmosphere with lessons that aim to be interactive and challenging, with high levels of active participation. A steady stream of students gain places in MFL at the universities of Oxford or Cambridge each year with three offers for 2016. There is a considerable focus on comprehension of authentic spoken and written material, and on oral practice, as well as on essay planning and translation. A firm grammatical foundation is established in order to deepen the students' knowledge about how language works, and vocabulary is continually extended. Cultural knowledge of the French/German/Spanish-speaking world is strongly encouraged through watching films and listening to authentic music, as well as reading magazines and literature. Interim assessments are based on past papers so that students are fully familiar with the demands of the exams.

The *Onatti* Theatre Company regularly perform plays in French/German/Spanish to students in Years 9 and 10. A popular Foreign Languages film club shows contemporary films in French and German, with English sub-titles, as well as a successful Languages Society, where sixth formers take turns to present on language-related issues. Our Languages Journal contains French/German articles by our sixth formers and junior students publish the *Duolingo*-Magazine. We have also successfully taken part in the *UK Linguistics Olympiad* over the last two years. Sixth form students are encouraged to attend Open Days at high-ranking universities, as well as conferences and plays.

### Facilities

Modern languages teaching takes place in a suite of four first-floor rooms. Each room has an interactive whiteboard and there are display cabinets in the rooms and the corridor. There are good resources including books, stationery, DVDs, etc. The school's wireless ICT network with full Internet facilities is available to staff who all have a laptop, and there are further computers in the Common room and also access in the library and the IT rooms. Photocopying can be done by teachers on various machines around the school or given to the Reprographics Department next to the Library.

### Curriculum

The timetable is organised on a 60-period fortnightly cycle with periods lasting 50 minutes. Most groups are timetabled for fortnightly language lessons in one of the IT suites, and we subscribe to various websites.

#### Year 7

French and German are taught in Year 7 in forms (2 French and 2 German), with 6 periods a fortnight.

#### Year 8

All 4 forms continue with 4 lessons a fortnight of French or German, and, in addition, students can choose to study German, French or Latin as a second language for 5 lessons a fortnight.

#### Year 9 – Year 11

Pupils must take at least one language to GCSE and may take 2. In KS4 all languages have 5 lessons a fortnight. Students in Year 10 and 11 are sitting the Edexcel Certificate (IGCSE) for all languages.

#### Year 12

French and German are offered at AS level, with Edexcel currently being the chosen Examinations Board. Pupils have 10 periods a fortnight, plus a weekly session with the language assistant.

**Year 13**

French and German are offered at A2 level, leading to terminal examinations with Edexcel. Pupils have 11 periods a fortnight, plus a weekly session with the language assistant.

**Course books and Materials****French**

Year 7	Expo 1
Year 8	Studio 2
Year 9	Studio 3
Years 10/11	GCSE Edexcel French
Year 12	AS Edexcel French
Year 13	A2 Edexcel French

**German**

Year 7	Stimmt 1
Year 8	Stimmt 2
Year 9	Echo Express 2
Years 10/11	GCSE Edexcel German
Years 12/13	Edexcel A-level German

**Spanish**

Years 9/10/11	GCSE Edexcel Spanish
---------------	----------------------

**Trips and Activities****French**

Year 7	1-day-trip to Boulogne
Year 8	1-day-trip to Lille Christmas Market
Year 9	8-day French exchange with the <i>Institution de la Croix Blanche</i> in Bondues near Lille, Nord-Pas-de-Calais
Year 10	5-day residential visit to Normandy
Years 12/13	4-day residential trip to Paris Work experience in France (privately organised)

**German**

Year 7	1-day-trip to Boulogne
Year 8	1-day-trip to Aachen Christmas Market
Year 10	8-day German exchange with the <i>Gymnasium Starnberg</i> near Munich, Bavaria 5-day residential visit to Rhineland
Years 12/13	7-day exchange with the <i>Hölderlin Gymnasium</i> in Heidelberg, Baden-Württemberg 5-day residential trip to Berlin Work experience in Germany (privately organised)

**Spanish**

Year 10	5-day residential visit to Murcia
---------	-----------------------------------

**Language Assistants**

Sixth form students have weekly sessions with the assistants whose role it is to improve students' oral skills and help prepare for their chosen oral topics. Students in Years 10 and 11 have fortnightly conversation lessons in small groups. Staff also have sessions with the assistant as part of their professional development programme.

**Inset**

Staff are encouraged to go on relevant Inset in order to keep up to date with the latest specifications, courses and methodology. Our regular Faculty meetings have a clear focus on Teaching & Learning, and we aim to work together as much as possible, supporting each other's professional development and sharing resources and ideas.