



## Modern Foreign Languages Department Profile

Coloma's Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Department is dynamic and successful. This is due to the dedication of the teachers, the hard work of the students and our excellent resources. The Department is characterised by excellent working relationships and a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

### MFL Provision at Coloma

All the girls learn French in mixed ability groups in Year 7. In Years 8 all students learn both French and German. At KS4, almost all students take at least one language from French, German and Spanish. Students are successful in their language learning throughout the school, including at Sixth Form level and a large proportion of our Sixth-Form students go on to study languages at university.

The MFL team currently comprises five full-time and two part-time teachers, along with two foreign language assistants. Teamwork is very much at the heart of the department. Each teacher has a co-ordinating role in a particular year group, taking responsibility for assessments and end of year examinations and working with all other teachers in that team. There is ample opportunity to share and develop new ideas in the department. Weekly departmental meetings ensure good communication and team spirit, as well as the sharing of good practice. Materials which have been created are put on the shared area of the computer network for everyone's use.

The department enjoys good accommodation, with five MFL classrooms, four of which have interactive whiteboards, as well as office space in the same building. The department is well resourced, with textbooks for every pupil and online materials including Linguascope and Kerboodle.

GCSE and A-level students take AQA examinations in French, Spanish and German. Teaching emphasises communicative competence supported by clear explanations and the practice of grammatical structures and translation. The aim is to develop confident language learners who enjoy speaking languages and learning about the culture of the country. Varied activities including pair work and songs contribute to making language learning fun. The sharing of lesson objectives, the use of self and peer assessment and individual target setting encourage pupils to take an active interest in developing their own language skills.

Members of the Department organise several trips abroad each year, visiting Angers, Munich, Paris and Berlin, and, where possible, Barcelona or Madrid. Cinema and theatre visits are made and visiting theatre groups and a foreign language film club further enhance the opportunities for language learning. All members of the department are expected to participate in school trips, as we view this as an important component in supporting students in their practical learning and in encouraging students to be motivated in the subject.

When applying for a position within the MFL Department all candidates are asked to mark a written piece of work from a student, and to give feedback. All candidates will also be asked to converse with a current member of the department in a foreign language as appropriate.

The department is committed to making language learning both accessible to all and an enjoyable experience. We also seek to contribute to the general education of pupils by developing transferable skills such as listening and thinking skills, as well as fostering an appreciation and understanding of other cultures.