



MFL Department: Supplementary Information

The Modern Languages Department is based at the heart of the School and is well resourced in terms of rooms and equipment. The Department has expanded its use of technology over recent years and has access to a range of software and online subscriptions including Kerboodle, Thisislanguage and Linguascope.

There are six full time members of staff including the Head of Department and four part time teachers. We have language assistants for French and Spanish. The Department teaches across the 13-18 age range, with some colleagues also delivering lessons at our Preparatory School and Taunton School International.

French, German and Spanish are taught as part of the core curriculum through Years 7-11. In the Sixth Form, French, German and Spanish A Levels are offered. For the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, we teach French A and B, Italian A and *ab initio*, Spanish B and *ab initio* and German A and B.

In French and Spanish the pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 are in sets according to ability. There is currently one German group in Years 9 to 11. A language is compulsory in these year groups but students have the freedom to choose which one or two languages they study. Modern Languages is taught in two single 35 minute periods and one double in Years 9 to 11. Teaching is in a mixture of doubles and singles in Years 12 and 13.

The Department follows the Edexcel IGCSE specification for GCSE and AQA in the current A Level. With a good academic record, last year the A* to C pass rate at IGCSE was 85%, of which 41% were A* or A. 56% of our A Level students achieved A or A* grades in French and Spanish.

Given that a language is compulsory for Year 11 students, entry numbers for IGCSE are very healthy and we are proud of the students' results as they move through sixth form and beyond. The Department also currently teaches large numbers of students on the various language routes offered within the IB Diploma Programme. We are a flexible department, for example it is possible for A level students to study an IB language.

As well as delivering excellent lessons, Modern Languages teachers are fully engaged outside the classroom. We run a German exchange and trips to France and Spain. The regular and varied extra-curricular language activities programme includes visits to Universities, guest speakers, films, quizzes, pancake making and *pétanque*.