



Swavesey Village College

Languages Department

The Languages Department is a thriving, innovative and collaborative team with a passion for language learning and extending the boundaries of learning in an international context. We are in a fortunate position where language learning is perceived as beneficial and necessary by students, parents, and staff, and can offer our students French, German and Spanish. We are also supported in our department by three FLAs: French, German and Spanish. We set high standards within the team and equally we have high expectations for all our students. We are ALL members, Linguascope and languagenut subscribers and benefit greatly from extensive CPD opportunities that they offer.

We pride ourselves on sharing best practice and resources across the department through a highly collaborative approach to our way of working. Over the last five years, we have redesigned our curriculum and embraced the EPI pedagogy and have moved away from using textbooks. We have subscriptions to the Sentence Builder website for use in class, and we also regularly use 'Flippity', 'Genially', "Wordwall" and 'Blooket' to name but a few of the many highly innovative and interactive websites on offer, to engage and motivate our learners. Homework is delivered through Teams and completed on Onenote, alongside weekly online assignments on Languagenut. There are Promethean boards in all MFL classrooms, and we use PowerPoints to deliver our lessons.

Philosophy - We aim to foster enjoyment and interest in the subject as well as promote the value of language learning both within and outside the classroom. Our emphasis is on motivating students by providing a stimulating and supportive environment. Students are involved, and their interest maintained, through suitably demanding and varied work alongside extra-curricular opportunities.

Languages at Key Stage 3 – All students in Year 7 start French at Swavesey. Most come having had a strong French provision at Primary School, which is delivered through our primary outreach programme. German and Spanish are introduced in Year 8. The curriculum incorporates skills necessary for success at Key Stage 4 and beyond. It is our intention that all students enjoy language learning and thus achieve their potential as they move through the key stages.

Languages at Key Stage 4 – +75% of our students study a language at GCSE and some choose to study 2 languages. Currently we study AQA examinations in all 3 languages. We are very proud that traditionally our exams results have exceeded the national average results.

Outside the Classroom – We are passionate about giving our students opportunities to extend their learning, and currently provide many opportunities to take part in national language competitions such as Poesiae, the Translation Spender Prize, GCHQ, Anthea Bell prize and in regional events such as the Routes into Languages Spelling Bee. We are proud to offer our students both French and German exchanges which have taken place for over 40 years, and are offering residential trips to Normandy, Berlin and Barcelona each year. We also have an annual trip to Boulogne-Sur-Mer for our students in Year 7.

To get a snapshot of the work that we do in and out of the classroom, please visit our X page: @MFL_Swavesey

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