MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Why is the study of Modern Foreign Languages important?

Language is 'the method of human communication used by a particular community'. At our school, studying a foreign language is a **higher-order skill** that goes beyond memorisation; it develops logical reasoning, problem-solving, and a profound understanding of one's own culture through a global lens.

Our curriculum is designed to build **communicative competence** and **linguistic curiosity** through a clear, staged pathway:

- **Year 7 (The Foundation):** All students study **both French and German**. This "Duo" approach builds a broad base of phonics, grammar, and vocabulary across two major European languages.
- **The Specialism (Year 8 & 9):** At the end of Year 7, students choose to specialise in **either French OR German**. This allows for greater depth of study, enabling students to manipulate complex tenses and engage with authentic materials as they move toward GCSE readiness.
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11):** All students follow the **Pearson Edexcel GCSE French specification** (with the first examinations for the new specification in Summer 2026). We strongly encourage this pathway to ensure students remain competitive for university and employment.

What you will learn

Across all year groups, lessons focus on four key pillars: **Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing**. Your MFL classroom will be brimming with interactive vocabulary learning and a focus on **Sound-Symbol Correspondence (Phonics)** to ensure confident pronunciation.

You will explore real-world themes, including:

- **Personal Identity:** Family, relationships, and daily life.
- **Global Awareness:** Festivals, travel, and environmental issues.
- **Future Ambitions:** Careers, technology, and the digital world.

By the end of your journey, you will be able to express your opinions fluently, understand complex texts, and communicate effectively—a vital life skill in our interconnected world.

What skills will the study of Modern Foreign Languages teach you?

You are a citizen in this world and you need to know how to communicate effectively with those around you from all backgrounds and cultures. It will teach you to…

- Develop self-determination
- Master the basics – you have to know simple words first before you can create full sentences and meaningful language.
- Develop your memory skills – repetition is the mother of all learning.
- Express your thoughts and opinions in an organised way.
- Listen and read for detail and identify the key points.
- Take risks and be confident.

OPEN ELEMENT SUBJECT OVERVIEW

What will you know and understand from your study of Modern Foreign Languages?

You will ...

- understand grammar and apply it in different contexts.
- communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts.
- manipulate the language using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary with increasing frequency
- interact effectively in speech; initiate and develop conversations, ask and answer questions, respond to unexpected questions.
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer spoken or written passages.
- deduce and infer meaning from a variety of spoken or written texts.
- translate into and out of the target language
- Read aloud and transcribe unknown information demonstrating an awareness of phonic sounds.

How can you deepen your understanding of Modern Foreign Languages?

We want to inspire you with a passion for language learning and a greater appreciation of different cultures. The MFL department offers lots of great opportunities for you to really engage with this fabulous subject. These range from trips abroad to experience the language and culture you are studying to whole school and Trustwide celebrations of events such as European Day of Languages. For GCSE students, we offer targeted support or further development to help advance your knowledge and understanding and build confidence across all skills in preparation for your GCSE examinations.

How are you assessed in Modern Foreign Languages?

We track progress through six **Praising Stars©** cycles per year, ensuring students build knowledge step-by-step. Our assessment model is designed to provide a clear flight path from your very first lesson to your final GCSE exams.

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):** From Year 7, we use your performance in "Dual Mastery" (French and German) to **forecast your likely GCSE outcome**. As you move into your specialist language in Years 8 and 9, we focus on "GCSE Readiness," monitoring how well you are tracking against that long-term prediction.
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11):** All students follow the **Pearson Edexcel GCSE French** specification. Assessments directly mirror GCSE papers to build exam technique and familiarity across the four key skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.
- **Support & Intervention:** At every cycle, you will receive an **Effort Grade (E1–E5)**. We use "curriculum indicators" to spot any gaps in your knowledge early, allowing us to provide targeted support to ensure you stay on track to achieve or exceed your predicted grade.

OPEN ELEMENT SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Key Assessment Objectives
The key learning objectives for Modern Foreign Languages are:
AO1 - Understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing
AO2 - Understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing
AO3 - Demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification

How can Modern Foreign Languages support your future?

A GCSE in a foreign language is a prestigious qualification that forms a key part of the Ebacc (English Baccalaureate). It signals to employers and universities that you are a disciplined communicator with a global outlook.

- Career Edge: Languages are a "premium" skill in Law, Engineering, Business, and International Relations.
- University Pathways: MFL is highly valued by top-tier universities, whether studied as a single subject or paired with Law, Politics, or STEM degrees.
- Life Skills: Beyond vocabulary, you develop cognitive grit, better English literacy, and the confidence to navigate an interconnected world.

Study of Modern Foreign Languages can lead to a wide range of careers:

The global job market is evolving rapidly. By 2026, the most successful professionals won't just be tech-literate; they will be culturally agile. A GCSE in French or German is a "power skill" that distinguishes you in a world of automation, proving you have the cognitive grit and empathy to collaborate across borders.

Future-Proof Careers supported by MFL:

- Technology & Digital Media: Global software development, AI ethics, and international social media management.
- Sustainability & Engineering: Managing international green energy projects and global supply chains.
- Law & Diplomacy: Corporate law, international relations, and the diplomatic service.
- Business & Logistics: Managing the movement of goods and services across Europe and beyond.
- Global Health & Hospitality: International NGO work and high-level hotel or travel management.

Our Legacy of Success Students who have studied Languages at Outwood Academy Shafton have used their linguistic foundation to pursue exciting and diverse pathways. Whether you aim for university, a higher apprenticeship, or the global workforce, the ability to speak another language means your career has no borders. In 2026 and beyond, the possibilities truly are endless!

OPEN ELEMENT SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Modern Foreign Languages Course Overview					
Term	Year 7 (French and German)	Year 8 (French or German)	Year 9 (French or German)	Year 10 (French or German)	Year 11 (French or German)
Autumn 1	UNIT 1: LANGUAGE MASTERY & MA FAMILLE (French) - The Language Learner: Decoding cognates, near-cognates, and "false friends." - Extended Opinions: Giving opinions on nouns/verbs with justifications (mais/denn). - Phonics 1: French (au/oi/ou); German (sch/au/a). - Ma Famille (French): Giving names, ages, and birthdays for self and others. - Grammar: 1st/3rd person singular of avoir & être; Reflexive verbs for names (m'appelle/s'appelle); Gender concepts for indefinite articles (un/une); German Word Order 1 rule with denn. - Assessment: KIP Writing (Name,	BASICS & MON MONDE SOCIAL (Part 1) - Basics: Consolidating phonics, numbers (1-100), days, months, and personal details. - Technology: Devices/apps you have/don't have; usage and frequency. - Grammar: Negating the indefinite article (kein/ne...pas de); Accusative case endings (German); -IR/-RE verbs (French).	BIENVENUE À PARIS/ MONTRÉAL/ BEAU VALLON - describing sights in a town/city -using prepositions accurately to describe going to a town/city -activities you can do/things to see in French speaking cities -using the conditional tense to talk/write about what you would like to do in French speaking countries -talking/writing about a past visit to a French speaking city - buying tickets/getting directions around cities - asking questions/giving directions - using the passive voice - other transactional languages- roleplay skills	TU AS DU TEMPS À PERDRE? -exploring events in the Francophone world - talking about what you do online - Saying what you do to stay active - Saying what you watch - Making plans to go out using the simple future tense - Saying what you did last weekend (perfect tense) - using negatives in the perfect tense -taking part in an interview	NOTRE PLANÈTE - Practising numbers and percentages - Talking about geography and the climate - Talking about environmental problems using the passive voice and the proper 3rd person future tense - Discussing how we can work together to protect the environment. - Using il faut+action Discussing 'green' projects -Talking about day-to-day actions to protect the environment. MON PETIT MONDE À MOI - Understanding adverts - Describing your town - Using the correct version on 'in' - Asking for and understanding directions - talking about

	Age, Birthday, Family opinions).				shopping for clothes -describing your ideal home- using adjectives correctly -Si + imperfect+conditional tense
Autumn 2	UNIT 1: MEINE SCHULE IST KLASSE (German) - School Facilities: Describing the building and subjects. - Grammar: The Accusative case after es gibt and haben; Definite articles (der/die/das/den); Compound noun gender rules; Inversion (Word Order 2) after time phrases (e.g., Am Nachmittag habe ich...). - Culture: Comparison of British, French, and German Christmas traditions. - Skills: Writing a blog comparing schools; identifying nouns via capital letters (German). - Assessment: Achievement Test 1 (Grammar, Phonics, and	MON MONDE SOCIAL (Part 2) - Music: Preferences and comparisons (plus...que / als). - Culture: Song study from a target language country. - Grammar: Near future/Periphrastic tense; Word Order 3 subordinate clauses (German: weil/da/obwohl). - Assessment: Deep mark writing and speaking role-play.	BIENVENUE À PARIS/ MONTRÉAL/ BEAU VALLON (CONTINUED) -talking/writing about a past visit to a French speaking city - buying tickets/getting directions around cities - asking questions/giving directions - using the passive voice - other transactional languages- roleplay skills	MON CLAN, MON TRIBU -talking about your identity -using possessive adjectives accurately - talking about your weekend routines- using reflexive verbs -discussing friends and friendship- adjectival agreement, sequencers and connectives - Talking about physical appearance- revisiting present tense - vocabulary needed to describe a photo - talking about positive role models- present and perfect tenses together - irregular past participles relevant to topic -talking about celebrations	MON PETIT MONDE À MOI (CONTINUED) -talking about visiting another city - questions in different forms - asking for and understanding directions -shopping for clothes

	School Vocabulary).				
Spring 1	UNIT 2: MON TEMPS LIBRE (French) - Free Time: Describing what you and others watch and play. - Grammar: Conjugation of regular -ER verbs in I/He/She/We forms (regarder/jouer/penser); Moving from infinitives to conjugated stems. - Phonics 2: French (é/er/ez/ai and nasal on/an/en). - Skills: Decoding written and spoken hobby descriptions without Sentence Builders. - Assessment: Achievement Test (Conjugation process and unit 1-2 vocabulary).	MUSIC EVENTS & VIVE LES VACANCES - Transactional: Arranging music events and buying tickets (Interrogatives). - Past Holidays: Describing destinations, transport, and accommodation in the past. - Grammar: Perfect Tense introduction (auxiliary + participle).	MES PROJETS ET MES RÊVES - describing likes/dislikes around school subjects - describing what you would like to study in the future - revisiting the future/ conditional tenses - talking about childhood dreams - using the imperfect tense		MOCK SPEAKING EXAM PREP (1 WEEK- EXAMS WEEK 2 OF SPRING 1) -mock speaking exams final preparation MES PROJETS D'AVENIR: -talking about plans for the summer -talking about travelling and earning money -talking about future plans & hopes - talking about possible future career paths - discussing the advantages/disadvantages of different jobs.
Spring 2	UNIT 2: BESCHREIB DICH (German) - Appearance & Personality: Describing physical traits (hair/eyes) and character/mood. - Grammar: Full present tense paradigm of haben and sein; Subject pronouns;	HOLIDAYS (Cont.) & DREAMS - Comparing holiday destinations and resorts. - Grammar: Perfect tense with sein (German) and être (French) for movement. - Future: School subjects and future study choices. -	MES PROJETS ET MES RÊVES (CONTINUED) - adverbs of time to write accurately in the past - write and speak about what you want to do now - comparing past dreams to current ones - describing future plans	MA VIE SCOLAIRE - learning about school life in Francophone countries - talking about school subjects using comparatives and accurate adjectives - discussing school rules- use of 'il faut' + infinitive - talking about	Revision - All themes & Topics. Listening, Reading & Writing mock exams (March mocks) Specific focus on speaking prep immediately after March mock exams

	Adjectives used postnominally (no agreement after sein). - Phonics 3: German (ß, V, ei, o/ö, u/ü). - Culture: Easter traditions in France and Germany. - Assessment: KIP Writing (Detailed physical and personality description of family/friends).	Assessment: Apply Knowledge writing (past tense).	- writing/talking about how you intend to make money in the future - general future plans	making progress in school- negatives and superlatives - talking about what school used to be like when you were younger- imperfect tense - talking about learning languages	
Summer 1	UNIT 3: JE SUIS EN VACANCES (French) - Holidays: Saying where you are, with whom, and why. - Facilities: Describing holiday amenities and activities using où on peut + infinitive. - Grammar: Full paradigm of être; Prepositions for places (en/à); Adjectival agreement (gender/number) and regular position (after the noun); Modal verb pouvoir (3rd person). - Phonics 4: French (-gn and revision of nasal sounds). - Assessment: Achievement Test	J'ADORE LES FÊTES (Part 1) - Describing festivals (location, time, activities). - Grammar: Future tense (werden/aller) and modals (vouloir/wollen); TMP rule in German; Passive voice avoidance (man).	LA VIE SAINE - talking about food you like/dislike - what other people eat and why -correct use of partitive articles - talking about healthy lifestyles in three different tenses (perfect/present/future) -comparing past lifestyles to current ones	EN PLEINE FORM - describing and giving opinions on different foods/drinks (partitive articles) - talking about meal times- time phrases/little words - talking about good mental health- modal verbs, imperatives - describing illnesses and accidents- body parts - saying what you will do to improve your life- simple future/ reflexive verbs -talking about lifestyle changes revisit negatives	Revision - All themes & Topics. Final GCSE exams

	2 + Dictation (Units 1-3).				
Summer 2	UNIT 3: MEINE STADT MACHT SPAß (German) - My Town: Describing activities in town (Salzburg/local connection). - Grammar: Conjugation of gehen; Inversion (Word Order 2) after In meiner Stadt...; Two-verb rule (2nd verb to the end) with man...kann. - Phonics 5: German (sp/st at the start of words; ie vs ei). - Skills: Comparing a UK town to a German/Swiss/Austrian town in a blog format. - Assessment: Achievement Test (Units 1-3) or Writing (Unit 3).	J'ADORE LES FÊTES (Part 2) - Personal & Past: How you celebrate vs. others; describing a past festival (5Ws). - Grammar: Perfect tense; Word Order 2 Inversion; 3rd person imperfect (était/war). - Assessment: Speaking (Read Aloud) and Year-end L&R.	LA VIE SAINE (CONTINUED) - talking about daily routines - using reflexive verbs accurately - recognising details of other people's daily routines in spoken and written form - healthy and unhealthy lifestyles	NUMÉRO VACANCES - talking about holidays and accommodation- conditional tense/reflexive verbs - talking about your ideal holiday -discussing what you can see and do on holiday- il vaut la peine de… - talking about festivals- past and present tenses revisited - reviewing and booking holiday accommodation (perfect tense of modal verbs) -talking about staycation activities	