



## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### Modern Foreign Languages

#### Why is the study of MFL important?

Language means ‘the method of human communication used by a particular community’. The study of a different language will enable you to develop an understanding of another culture and therefore gain a more profound understanding of your own language and culture. Language learning is a higher order skill and will encourage you to plan, solve problems, and manipulate the elements of language learnt to communicate effectively. From Year 7 you will have the exciting opportunity to listen to and read authentic material in the target language on a wide range of topics such as school, leisure time, family & relationships, technology, customs and festivals in other countries, to name but a few. You will become confident to speak in front of others and express your opinions in different ways. You will develop your understanding of grammar both in the target language and in English, and learn how to produce relevant, fluent and coherent pieces of writing. Your study of Modern Foreign Languages will encourage you to think deeply and help you more effectively communicate with others – a great life skill that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study you will explore what life is like for young people in the target language country. Lessons will provide a wide range of opportunities for speaking, listening, reading and writing. Your MFL classroom will be brimming with vocabulary learning in fun and exciting ways, the recall of which is the key to all understanding and communication in the target language. You will engage with the grammar of the new language and use logic, reasoning and problem-solving skills to apply it in context. Seems challenging - you are going to love it! MFL will expand your mind!

At GCSE we study the AQA detail specification.

Big issues such as the environment, poverty & homelessness, cultural differences across the world, and social issues are all part of the curriculum at GCSE. You will think about the advantages and disadvantages of social media and technology, as well as reflect on your plans for the future in terms of relationships as well as future study and careers. You will be encouraged to develop your own thoughts and opinions on such issues and then express them not in English, but in the target language. What a level to reach! I bet you can't wait to get started.

#### What skills will the study of MFL 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.

### **What will you know and understand from your study of MFL?**

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.

### **How does your study of MFL support you in other subjects?**

Study of any subject in our curriculum takes full advantage of links with other subject areas; we term these as interdisciplinary links and we make the most of them because we know that deep learning requires the transference of knowledge and skills from one topic of learning to another. Once you can transfer your learning across topics and subject areas then you are really mastering what you know and how to apply your understanding and skills.

Modern Foreign Languages touches on so many other subjects; language learning is the development of literacy skills, which are essential to the study of all subjects. In years 7, 8 and 9 students can explore the culture of the French or Spanish speaking world with projects focusing on customs and traditions, films and exploring towns in France or Spain. At GCSE, students discuss global and social issues, which link to study in Science, Geography, and Religious Education. There are very close links with the study of English in terms of grammatical language, expressing opinions and developing arguments, as well as the use of literary texts at GCSE. You will learn methods of thinking and research that are widely applicable to other subject areas helping your thinking in all subjects.

### **How can you deepen your understanding of MFL?**

The MFL department offers lots of great opportunities for you to really engage with this fabulous subject. We have our games club over the academic year, film club, European Week of Languages celebrations and we have run trips to France and Spain. You can also apply to become a 'Languages Ambassador', helping to promote languages in a variety of ways. Get involved! Become a linguist.

### **How are you assessed in MFL?**

Throughout the 5-year Language course you are assessed using the following assessment objectives which ensure that you can cumulatively build your subject understanding in preparation for future GCSE and A Level study. There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars<sup>®</sup>. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the MFL curriculum.

### **Key Assessment Objectives**

AO1: LISTENING: understand and respond to spoken language.

AO2: SPEAKING: communicate and interact in speech.

AO3: READING: understand and respond to written language.

AO4: WRITING: communicate in writing.

### **How can MFL support your future?**

Naturally we offer the study of GCSE and we encourage your continued study in this fantastic subject. Yet we know that choice and personal interest are important aspects of worthy study. Whether you have continued your study of Languages into GCSE or A level or not you will have gained access to this enriching subject and its study will have taught you to think differently and deeply.

Modern Foreign Languages are offered at most prestigious universities either as a single honour or a joint honours subject studied alongside other disciplines e.g. Linguistics, Law, Politics, Tourism, International Studies, History, English, Philosophy. The very fact that you have been able to study linguistic thinking will help your future applications, be they for colleges, universities, apprenticeships, or employment.

Careers that the study of MFL supports include:

- Translator or Interpreter
- Teacher in the UK or abroad
- Lawyer
- Marketing executive
- Diplomatic service officer
- International aid/development worker
- Tour manager
- International hotel or catering manager
- Media/advertising

## Curriculum Progression Pathway

	Term 1:1	Term 1:2	Term 2:1	Term 2:2	Term 3:1	Term 3:2
7	Mastery: Being a language learner	French: School	Spanish: Free time Mastery: The present tense	French: Free time Mastery: The future tense	Spanish- Family life	French: Family life Spanish: School
8	Technology and social media	Music and film Social lives- buying tickets	Holidays- transport, accommodation, weather	Holiday activities- past and present	Spanish festivals- present and future	Festivals- Christmas, Birthday, Eid- past tense
9	Welcome to... Town study	School and future plans	Healthy lifestyles	Healthy lifestyles	Global and social issues	Revision, consolidation and assessment
10	Free time activities	Me, my family & friends House and home	Town & region My studies	Life at School Technology	Travel and tourism	Speaking preparation Full set of mock exams
11	Customs and festivals Education post-16 Jobs and ambitions Social issues: healthy lifestyles	Social issues: Charity and voluntary work Environment: Local and global	Speaking preparation Speaking mocks Revision: Theme 1, theme 2 and theme 3	Revision: Listening, reading and writing- all themes	Speaking preparation: Speaking GCSE Revision: Listening, reading and writing- all themes	Exam series