



Key Stage 3 – Years 7&8

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Year 7 Outline

In Year 7 half the year group learns French and the other half learns German. All students are taught in their tutor group for the first term and then in ability-linked sets from January until the end of the year. Students learn the key sounds and grammar of the language and begin to formulate short, spoken conversations using everyday language on a range of topics. Students have regular cultural input and enjoy learning about key festivities and celebrations of the countries of study.

Year 8 Outline

In Year 8 all students start a 2nd foreign language. They have a choice between Spanish and either French or German, depending on what they started in Year 7. A small number of students will have additional Maths and English support in the place of continuing with their first foreign language but the majority of students learn 2 languages in Year 8. Students build on the progress made in Year 7 and begin to look at a range of tenses. Students develop their understanding of the countries of study and take part in cultural competitions. Classes are allocated a class country and carry out research projects based on this country. Classes may also take part in the MFL karaoke at the discretion of the teacher. Topics studied are relevant to the everyday life of young people.

Group/Class structure

From the second term of Year 7 all students are taught in ability-linked sets for languages. These sets are reviewed at the end of each year and students can and do move between the sets. Group size varies, with smaller groups at the weaker end of the ability range to allow for increased teacher attention and support. Lessons are taught as far as possible in the target language, but this will vary depending on the group and the work being covered in the lesson. All classes in each year group cover a similar range of topics, although higher sets would be expected to explore the grammar of the language in more detail. Every child has their own copy of a text book for each language and all classes, outside of Covid restrictions, have use of the language lab on a rota basis. In addition to textbooks, teachers also make use of language-learning websites, foreign films and internet clips to ensure that the language learning is varied and set in its wider cultural context.

Teaching & Learning Style

Language lessons are, by nature, varied and exciting. Students cover the four main skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and develop their skills and confidence in translation. Students are expected to use independent study to embed vocabulary and grammar taught in class. Students enjoy low stakes quizzing and we use a range of

methodology and evidence informed practice to plan lessons which promote excellent progress.

Assesment

All four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are taught from the start of Year 7. Shortly after the half term break in the first term of Year 7, all students sit a test which, along with teacher assessment, is used to decide groupings for the following term. All classes are assessed at the end of the first term and then in the summer term and are tested in all 4 skills. Setting for the following year is based on a student's performance throughout the year and on teacher feedback.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

There are cultural competitions which take place at various times of the year, a Christmas karaoke competition, a poetry competition, spelling bee in French, German and Spanish and much more! From Y9, in normal times, exchanges are offered to France, Spain and Germany.

Chinese is offered as an extra-curricular option. Any student can sign up for lessons, which run on a Thursday after school from 3.20- 4.20 and 4.20 – 5.20. Those students who maintain their study over a few years progress from complete beginners to GCSE standard. The GCSE exam is sat in the Sixth Form, when additional lessons can usually be timetabled during the school day. From Year 9 there is the opportunity to participate in a Chinese Exchange which runs every two years.