

Modern Languages Curriculum Information

Year 6

In Year 6, students study German for two periods a week. We cover greetings and introductions, talking about ourselves and our families, numbers, dates and birthdays, classroom objects and colours, talking about our pets and talking about likes and dislikes. Teaching is designed to encourage girls to enjoy the language and to develop their listening and speaking skills.

Year 7

In Year 7, students study French for four periods a week. Lessons move at a faster pace and formal grammar is introduced. We study the vocabulary and structures relating to personal identification, where people live, the classroom, the family, home, animals, hobbies, likes, dislikes and preferences and celebrations and festivals.

Years 8 & 9

Students study two languages for four periods a week from a choice of French, German and Spanish. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target languages are developed, with particular emphasis placed on practical and confident communication. The benefits of understanding grammar are not neglected either and students are able to refer to past, present and future events. Topics are similar to those studied in Year 7 but by now we are able to cover them in greater depth.

Years 10 & 11

Students opt to study at least one and up to three of French, German and Spanish at IGCSE, each for four periods a week. IGCSE languages involve examinations at the end of Year 11, so no teaching time is lost on excessive assessment (as required by the GCSE specification introduced in 2009). Topics studied are home and local area, health and sport, leisure and entertainment, travel and the wider world, and education and work. As well as building on our linguistic knowledge, skills and understanding, we develop personal awareness of other cultures and an appreciation of our place in a multilingual global society. While we study successful examination techniques in line with the syllabus, emphasis is still firmly on successful communication in the target language.

Years 12 & 13

French, German and Spanish are all offered at GCE, in line with the specification from the AQA examining board. The course is studied in 4 double periods per week and also ½ hour a week with the language assistant, who is a native speaker.



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SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Students are expected to spend a minimum of 5 hours outside the classroom in guided and independent study, going over the content and grammar of the course, preparing and producing spoken and written work for assessment and reading around the subject. The topics covered at AS are all relevant to any young person's experience of the world around them. These are media, popular culture, healthy living and lifestyles and family and relationships. Sophisticated grammar and specific vocabulary is learned to enable students to describe and develop their ideas in the target language. At A2, topics broaden out to include environment, the multicultural society, contemporary social issues and two cultural topics relating to the work of an author/director/musician/poet from a target language-speaking community or a period of its 20th century history or its geography. Students learn to defend their arguments and deal with challenges to their views.

