

SUBJECT: MFL French, Spanish and German

YEAR: 7, 8 & 9

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr Carter

GROUPING POLICY: Mixed ability

COURSE CONTENT:

What will my child learn?

In Year 7, all students study French, German and Spanish on rotation. The Year 7 curriculum is aimed at developing students' learning skills and giving them an insight into the three languages. They will learn how to talk about themselves and give opinions on a variety of subjects. Towards the end of Year 7, students will be asked to rank the languages, choosing the one that they wish to continue with into Year 8 and 9.

MFL Intent:

- All students enjoy lessons and see the value of what they learn, beyond the classroom.
- Encourage students to realise that effort, resilience and risk taking can lead to high levels of achievement.
- Equip students with a strong foundation for success and a desire to learn more about the language and culture.

Implementation:

Our curriculum plan is structured in such a way that it allows for depth and consolidation of key skills and content across the Key Stage. We aim for it to achieve the following:

- Build knowledge and cultural capital of all learners.
- Build cumulative knowledge through well-sequenced schemes of work.
- Be focused on mastery and long-term progress by learning common 'chunks' of language, rather than individual words.
- To encourage students to be confident, resilient, effective and independent learners.

Overview of the curriculum:

Initially, students are introduced to language to allow them to talk about what is important to them, as individuals. Next, they look at where their place is in the world, start to look at the language and culture in a more global environment, before finally looking at how they can make the right choices, preparing themselves to be global citizens.

Some of the topics we will cover in Key Stage 3 are as follows: holidays, festivals, 'my town', healthy living, music, TV, art, the world of work, 'my life' and technology.

Throughout the course, teachers will also look for opportunities to develop and deliver units of work further tailored to students' interests as well as responding to current global events in order to develop cultural understanding and give students the opportunities to use the language for their own purposes.

Therefore, if your child visits any French, Spanish or German speaking country, please do encourage them to bring back things in order to share their experiences with the class.

What will homework look like?

Students will be given one piece of homework per week which should take them 30 minutes. Most homework set at Key Stage will be focused on revising words and phrases learnt in class.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

There are a variety of enrichment opportunities that could be / are made available to students at Key Stage 3 and, as a department, we are open to suggestions from students as to what they would like to be involved in. These opportunities range from:

- Residential trips to France/Spain/Germany.
- Competitions within school.
- 'Language Days'.

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

At three points in the year, your child's progress will be formally assessed in at least two of the following skills. All assessments are designed to cover content that has just been taught, as well as to recap language learnt earlier in the course:

- a) Speaking – Students may be asked to deliver a presentation, take part in an interview or have a conversation. Increasingly, students are expected to respond spontaneously.
- b) Listening – Students will listen to audio extracts and answer questions either in English or in the target language.
- c) Reading – Students will be given a series of short texts to read and about which they need to answer questions. This can include being a 'language detective' - looking for evidence and making predictions about words or phrases which they have never seen before.
- d) Writing – Students may be asked to write a letter, paragraph or article on the topic they have been covering. This will need to be done with no preparation and with accurate spelling.

Students will have the opportunity to work individually and as part of a pair or group in preparation for some assessments, thus developing their teamwork and leadership skills alongside their language skills.

As well as formal assessments, students will be assessed on an informal basis by teachers during lessons and by looking at books and homework.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

Whether you speak the language that your child is learning or not, you can support them in many ways. For example:

- Having a bilingual dictionary at home for them to use will help them to develop their dictionary skills.
- Purchasing a revision workbook, such as CGP's 'Key Stage 3 Complete Revision and Practice'.
- Practising vocabulary on apps such as Quizlet, Memrise or Duolingo.

- Encourage your child to listen to foreign language radio or films/series on streaming services. This will allow them to practise their listening skills, develop confidence in pronunciation as well as develop an understanding of the culture.
- When watching films try to watch them in the foreign language with English subtitles, rather than dubbed.
- If you can, plan a family holiday to a country where French, German or Spanish is spoken.
- Test them often on the words they are currently learning.
- Get them to try to teach you something that they are learning.
- If you do speak the language, try to set aside some time each day/week that you communicate with them only in the language.
- Encourage your child to draft and check any written work they do, so that they focus on accuracy.