

SUBJECT: French | Spanish | German

YEAR: 12 & 13

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr Carter

GROUPING POLICY: Students must have at least a grade 5 at GCSE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

CURRICULUM INTENT:

Our curriculum aims to enable students to communicate in another language. We empower our students to understand and respond to French, German and Spanish speakers, expressing ideas and thoughts relevant to their needs and interests.

We focus on developing their competences in listening, reading, speaking and writing, building up their independence and self-confidence over 7 years. We want to equip our students to study languages post-16 and, in the longer term, to be able to work with people from around the world and in other countries.

We open students to other cultures, foster curiosity and deepen understanding of the world. We want to make them aware of the value and importance of learning a language and challenge insular beliefs. We aim to develop respect for others, both in our local communities and around the world. We aim to build up their cultural capital and widen horizons through a range of activities, cultural events and trips.

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION:

What will my child learn?

The core content of this course comes under the following themes, all aimed at developing students' knowledge of the target language culture as well as the language:

- Social issues and trends (such as: family, technology, crime, diversity).
- Political and artistic culture (such as: music, cinema, immigration).

Students also study a novel and a film (about which they write essays), choose their own individual research project (about which they speak in their oral exam) and deepen their understanding of grammar.

What will homework look like?

Students should expect to do at least one hour's homework after each lesson. This will take the form of comprehension exercises (both listening and reading), grammar exercises, writing tasks, research or preparation for oral presentations.

In addition, students are expected to “read around the subject” by, for example, researching newspaper articles (on the internet), watching films and TV series, following foreign language social media accounts or doing extra grammar practice.

Students are also expected to learn vocabulary every week and to review each lesson at home to ensure retention of knowledge. The more independent work students undertake, the more confident they will become.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

Stays abroad are highly recommended. In the past, our students have, for example, completed work experience and found it very beneficial.

ASSESSMENT

How will my child’s work be assessed?

There will be regular informal assessment throughout the course and a formal mock exam in January of Years 12 and 13.

There are three exams at the end of the course:

Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing

- 2.5 hours and worth 50% of the A-Level.
- This paper assesses the set topics outlined above.

Paper 2 – Writing

- 2 hours and worth 20% of the A Level.
- This paper requires students to write two essays on the novel and film which they have studied.

Paper 3 – Speaking

- 20 minutes and worth 30% of the A Level.
- This paper requires students to talk about their research project and to have a short discussion on one of the set topics.

The speaking assessments are conducted by the class teacher, recorded and sent to the examination board.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

- Students should have a good bilingual dictionary which will help them to develop their vocabulary.

- Encourage an interest in current issues which will enable students to develop their opinions.
- Encourage them to listen to foreign language radio and watch programmes on streaming services. This will allow them to practise their listening skills, develop confidence in pronunciation and deepen an understanding of the culture.
- Encourage your child to complete a work experience placement to provide an opportunity for greater immersion in the language.

How can I support my child with exams?

Regular practice of exam-style questions and past papers is invaluable.