

Modern Foreign Languages Department – Curriculum Statement of Intent

'Languages are information and information is everything'

In today's multicultural society, learning a language has never been more important – both for the present day, and for the future. At Shirebrook we deliver French and Spanish. Spanish is the 2nd most widely spoken language in the world, with French often used for translation purposes across Europe and the rest of the world. According to certain studies, French is also predicted to be the most widely spoken language in the world by 2050.

The Modern Foreign Languages department at Shirebrook Academy is committed to offering a high quality languages curriculum which develops inter-personal skills, enriches lives, and prepares students for the world of work, further study and life.

Communication is at the heart of everything we do, and through our programmes of study in KS3 and KS4, students have regular opportunities to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing – skills which are invaluable not only in their languages lessons, but in other lessons across the curriculum and in their daily and future lives. By giving students the opportunity to master these skills, we give them the best opportunity to become confident and secure second-language users.

We aim to show students the importance of languages beyond the four walls of the classroom, by using language in real-life contexts. We are committed to developing students' linguistic skills, and intercultural understanding and appreciation for different ways of life. *'High quality languages education should foster students' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world'* (Myatt) which we feel epitomises our languages curriculum.

Our aim is for students to become both confident linguists and more culturally aware with a heightened appreciation for other ways of life. We strive towards students developing linguistic and grammatical skills (such as being able to communicate in, and understand, 3 tenses), as well as inter-personal skills such as increased self-confidence, communication, perseverance, resilience and adaptability, and to continually develop a growth mind-set through regular exposure to challenging content.

By studying a language at Shirebrook Academy, students are also more prepared for the world of work and further study, with colleges and universities often favouring students who have knowledge of a language, which can be useful in a range of careers, such as: travel and tourism, hotel catering, management, business, leisure, education and translation/interpreting – to name just a few.

We operate a spiral curriculum which builds on the knowledge and skills which students develop at Key Stage 2, allowing our Key Stage 3 Schemes of Work to be challenging, differentiated and purposeful. The challenging yet supportive spiral nature to our curriculum prepares students well for GCSE study, and our Key Stage 4 approach allows students to develop confidence, spontaneity and the linguistic skills/knowledge necessary to continue their studies in to Key Stage 5. Our curriculum ensures students are in the best possible position to develop in to high quality linguists and global citizens, with regular opportunities to re-visit and re-use prior knowledge in a range of settings and contexts.

Provision of valuable enrichment opportunities is a key aspect of what we do, and we are proud to offer annual residentials to Paris (in April and December) or Barcelona; as well as an exciting exchange with a school in Toulon on the French Riviera. We also run a Languages Week aimed at opening students up to languages and culture outside of the classroom and recently launched a Languages Ambassadors scheme aimed at giving students leadership opportunities and showcasing the true meaning of languages and cultural appreciation. We are committed to contributing to the wider curriculum, and lots of what we do links to Personal Development, RHSC, SMSC and other areas including English, Maths, DT, PE and the Arts.

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart' (Nelson Mandela)