

# Mr Edwards: Head of MFL

**Favourite linguist:** Rúben Rodrigues – Fluent in Portuguese, English and Dutch and has worked in Portugal, The Netherlands and England as a professional footballer, currently plying his trade at the world's greatest club – Notts County. A real role-model for his amazing linguistic ability, skills on the football pitch and for having the courage to move abroad from The Netherlands to England, leaving his family in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic and at such a young age.

**My languages background:** From Y7 at school I loved learning languages and wanted to become a languages teacher since a young age. I studied French and German at GCSE and A-Level and then French, German and Spanish at The University of Nottingham before becoming a teacher. My Year Abroad was an amazing opportunity and experience – I spent it working in a school in Amstetten (Austria), studying at university in Cádiz (Spain) and working in a holiday centre in Pentrez (France).

**My languages:** Spanish, French, German and English

**Language I would like to learn:** Russian

**Favourite word:** Albaricoques (Spanish for 'apricots')

**Favourite places to travel:** Moscow is one of my favourite cities in the world – I have been lucky to travel there many times! An amazing city with so much history and culture! Some of my other favourite towns/cities around the world that I've visited include Istanbul, Santorini, Milan, Kotor, Barcelona and Helsinki!

**Best thing about being a languages teacher at Shirebrook Academy?:**

Watching students grow in confidence to be able to communicate in a foreign language is priceless. In addition to this, trips and visits are a massive part of what we do, and over the last 11 years I have been lucky to take multiple groups of students abroad to Barcelona, Paris and Toulon – watching students develop cultural awareness and understanding of different countries and lifestyles is fantastic! I am also very lucky to work in such a fantastic department with some amazing colleagues and friends.



# Miss Wheeldon: Assistant Head of MFL

**Favourite linguist:** My favourite linguist would have to be Shakira. She can speak four other languages, which is incredible. I am a big fan of her music, especially her Spanish songs. I also admire people such as David Beckham for learning a new language (Spanish) because he moved countries due to his job.

**My languages background:** I first noticed my love for languages in Year 10 at school, where I was part of the first group to study Spanish at GCSE. After three weeks of studying Spanish, I was asked to take part in an exchange project in Leon, Spain for a week. I lived with a host family and loved it so much that I returned for two more exchange visits. I went on to study languages at Manchester Metropolitan University. I spent my year abroad living and studying in Murcia (Spain) and Rome (Italy). Living in these two beautiful cities for a year was the best time of my life. Whilst at university I started to study French too. I also taught students English whilst I lived in Spain and it was then I realised that I wanted to become a Languages Teacher.

**My languages:** Spanish, Italian, French, and English

**Language I would like to learn:** Portuguese and Polish

**Favourite word:** Trabajaba meaning "I used to work" ☺ Pronounced like Trabahabba!

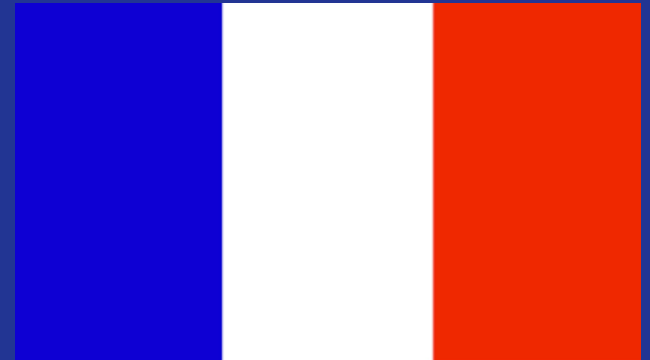
**Favourite places to travel:** I love to travel and visit new places, it's so exciting to experience new cultures and places. I loved living in Rome, it was such a beautiful city. I have also visited New York which was an incredible experience in the winter. Other places I have visited are Croatia, Prague, Krakow, Amsterdam and Iceland.

**Best thing about being a languages teacher at Shirebrook Academy? –** Every day is different. It's amazing to see students make progress and be able to have conversations in the Target Language. It is also great to see students' confidence grow. I have also had the pleasure of leading trips to Barcelona and allowing students to experience new cultures and understandings of other places in the world.



# Dan Sullivan: Teacher of MFL

**My languages background:** As an Arsenal fan growing up I wanted to play for them and I thought that if I spoke French I'd have better chance of getting selected by Arsène Wenger! Although French never did lead me to become a top footballer, it did give me the opportunity to live and work abroad both teaching English in Montpellier (France) and leading school trips around Northern France. Learning a foreign language is a great way to meet new people and see new places! Languages also open doors to a wide range of career opportunities ranging from Finance to Travel & Tourism.



**Favourite places to travel:** The Languedoc region of France is phenomenal. The area has something for everyone, packed full of cities, history, beaches, restaurants, caves, hotels and much more! My top tip would be to visit the port city of Sète, a must see!



**My languages:** French Spanish and English

**Language I would like to learn:** Polish

**Favourite linguist:** Thierry Henry – he speaks French, English, Spanish and Italian – he shows great determination in whatever he does and has been hugely successful in his career!

**Best thing about being a languages teacher at Shirebrook Academy?:**

The students. Their enthusiasm for foreign languages is amazing, watching them develop on their language learning journey into becoming outstanding linguists is something





# Miss Dupuis: Teacher of MFL

**My background:** I come from a region called Auvergne in the centre of France. I have always been attracted by languages, mine included and I have always loved travelling and imitating accents. I have lived in England for four years and did most of my studies in France. I first studied business and marketing but then solely focused on studying foreign languages. My passion for teaching arose during my first year in England when I started as a French assistant in a school near London. It made me want to go further and I went to the University of Nottingham to do a PGCE.

**My languages:** French, English, Italian and Spanish

**My favourite language:** Italian

**Places I would like to visit:** Italy, Greece or Malta

**My favourite linguist:** Christoph Waltz (actor). He can speak four languages and in some films, he showed his ability to naturally switch from a language to another. He also imitates accents really well



# Mr Lopez: Teacher of MFL

**My languages background:** From a very young age I have been surrounded by foreign languages. With my grandparents originating from La Coruña, I was in awe of how people could communicate in different ways. I studied both French and Spanish through school, at GCSE and A-Level and then completed my degree in French and Spanish at Nottingham Trent University. During my degree, I spent several months living in Lille, France and Madrid, Spain which was the most fantastic and culturally rich experience. I then completed my PGCE in Secondary MFL at University of Nottingham and started my teaching career here at Shirebrook Academy.

**My languages:** Spanish, French, and English

**Language I would like to learn:** Russian, Polish, Japanese, Korean.

**Favourite word:** Pulpo – Spanish word for 'Octopus'

**Favourite places to travel:** I definitely have wanderlust and have travelled far and wide. I have travelled to Madrid, Barcelona and Malaga in Spain. Lille, Bordeaux, Paris, Marseille and Normandy in France. Other countries I have visited include Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway, USA, Iceland, Hungary, Germany and Portugal. My next top destinations to travel to include Japan, South Korea and Canada.

**Best thing about being a languages teacher at Shirebrook Academy?**

Being an example of where languages can take you. I enjoy sharing all of the different experiences you can have with having the skill of speaking another language. I enjoy when students grasp new concepts in order to communicate in French and Spanish and, in turn, communicate better in their own language. I grew up in Bedfordshire so I am not a local to the area however, the staff and students have all warmly welcomed me to Shirebrook Academy and it is a pleasure to work with the rest of the members of the MFL department who have been incredibly supportive since my first day at the school.

