

The MFL Department

The Department currently has 3 full-time teachers and 2 part-time teachers. We teach French and German from KS3-5 and most staff teach 2 languages (or more).

All pupils learn both French and German in Year 7 and 8 and most continue with 2 languages in year 9. The other pupils focus on 1 language to improve performance at GCSE as all pupils must take a language at KS4. We run the second language course as a twilight option after school but our uptake for 2 languages is good and the dual linguists have a good track-record of success. The GCSE results in the department are currently improving with A*-C 72% in German and 62% in French, which in the context of compulsory language is strong.

Pupils have 2 lessons of both French and German at KS3 and the single language year 9s have 4. The teaching groups are organised by ability from Year 8. Progress is regularly assessed through listening and reading tests and pupils complete longer assessments in speaking and writing once a term. Target-setting and review for pupils is carried out after assessments and achievement at Key Stage 3 is very good. Last year 99% of all pupils in French and German met their target level and 71% in French and 60% in German exceeded their target level. We are currently looking into extending our provision of languages from year 9 onwards to include Spanish.

We have a broad scheme of work that roughly follows the topics in the Expo and Echo books but teacher independence and originality is encouraged and we share a lot of electronic and paper resources. We offer the AQA syllabus at GCSE and pupils are now well-prepared for the GCSE course.

At AS/A2 we have small groups of enthusiastic linguists and we use the AQA AS and A-Level books and Kerboodle resources in French and German. The oral element is examined internally and students are encouraged to undertake their own research and work independently.

As a department, we are an effective team, who support each other and share resources and ideas. All members of the department work very hard to ensure that the work-ethic and focus in MFL is high, which has contributed to enthusiastic learners, who enjoy their language lessons and have high expectations of themselves and their attainment.

We run 2 exchange trips; one to Berlin (KS4) and one to Les Anderlys in Normandy (KS3). These play an important role in the life of the school and the department and our pupils continue to benefit greatly from these trips.

The department is a high achieving one and predicted results for June 2017 are set to rise further. We are a positive and mutually supportive team who encourage each other, value new ideas as well as collaborative ways of working.