Achievement & Opportunity For All

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The Staff

We are an enthusiastic and forward-looking department in an outstanding and oversubscribed school. There are four full-time and four part-time language teachers teaching French, Italian and German though we are keen to review our languages offer to potentially develop other languages including Spanish. The current Head of Languages works closely with subject leads for the current languages we offer and retains personal oversight for Italian. A language assistant provides additional support, working six hours per week.

We teach the full ability range from pupils who join us with relatively little experiences of other languages right up to potential Oxbridge entrants. 24 pupils join us each year as a result of their prowess in the school's aptitude for languages which adds to a critical mass of pupils who are enthusiastic to develop their language skills.

An increasing number of pupils are also joining the school with proficiency in community languages which we celebrate.

We are looking to appoint a leader to take this energetic, experienced, talented and collaborative team to the next stage in its development.

Teaching

All students study French from Year 7 using Schemes of Work which incorporate resources from Dynamo. From Year 8, three of the eight forms start German using the course book 'Echo Express' and our own resources and three start Italian using the course book 'Tutti Insieme!' and our own resources. This continues into Year 9. At present pupils are entered for the Edexcel GCSE in French and German and AQA GCSE in Italian and all languages are entered for Edexcel at A-Level.

At present a large majority of pupils take languages to GCSE level.

Accommodation and Support

In spring 2021, we moved into a new school and the department's facilities are excellent. We have eight teaching rooms, each equipped with the latest digital screens.

The school offers a fully supportive induction package to new and experienced teachers. ECTs meet regularly to discuss classes' progress and preparation for examinations and in addition ECTs receive support and guidance from a designated mentor member from the Senior Leadership Team.

The Languages Department offers excellent opportunities for career development. It is very supportive and meets regularly to discuss future plans, to divide responsibilities and share ideas and concerns.

Letter of Application

In their letter of application, which should not exceed two sides of A4, candidates should, amongst other points, indicate their thoughts on what constitutes good teaching and learning in MFL.

OUR CURRENT MFL CURRICULUM

FRENCH

All students start French in Year 7 using Schemes of Work which incorporate the full range of resources available to the modern language teacher: textbooks, Linguascope, and a wide range of online resources. All students have access to a digital textbook and online support exercises. There is a wide variety of materials available for use on the interactive whiteboards. There are detailed Schemes of Work for each year group offering advice and support for the teacher. There is also a detailed assessment scheme for each year group. There is a wide variety of French readers, magazines and films available in the school Library for pupils to read in school and at home. Year 9 students use the AQA Expo Foundation text book.

Most students continue to study a Modern Foreign Language with the possibility of continuing with two languages if they wish.

For Year 10 and 11 students we have a suite of Pearson Activelearn resources including online homework exercises. We have all the materials that accompany these books plus a wide variety of extra materials which we have developed ourselves. We aim to enter the majority of students for the Higher paper at GCSE. All GCSE students have access to the "This Is School" website that has a wealth of engaging activities for independent learning.

For A Level we follow Edexcel and students are provided with their own copy of the newly-published recommended textbook. These are supplemented with a wide variety of materials including DVDs and CDs and Grammar software.

ITALIAN

Currently, three classes in Year 8 and four classes in Year 9 are studying Italian as their second language. Pupils follow the *Tutti Insieme* course book in Year 8 and Amici in Year 9 and the department has all the available resources which accompany these courses: textbooks, teacher's books, audio material and student workbooks. There is also a detailed assessment scheme for each year group.

Students continue to use the *Amici* course book as they enter KS4. Again, the department has all the available resources to build on the work started in year 9: textbooks, teacher's books, audio material and student workbooks. In addition, at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, teachers have created a wide variety of stimulating activities for use on the interactive whiteboard. These are available for all staff on the shared drive.

All classes also benefit from working with an Italian Language Assistant in small groups. This enables them to consolidate learning in class and practise their oral skills. All GCSE students have access to the "This Is School" website that has a wealth of engaging activities for independent learning.

Students use a wide variety of authentic texts and multimedia resources to prepare for the Edexcel A Level exam. The department has a wealth of advanced level resources and detailed schemes of work and assessments. All students have individual or paired lessons with the Italian Language Assistant to develop their oral skills.

GERMAN

Two classes of pupils in Year 8 start German as a second language. The course book used is “Echo Express" and all the resources accompanying this course are available including flashcards, photocopiable copymasters and assessment material. There are also DVDs and other materials based on the course. There is a comprehensive scheme of work to help and advise the teacher.

In Years 10 and 11 we follow the Edexcel GCSE course. Pupils use “Echo” as their main text book. All the worksheets, CDs and teachers' books are available. All GCSE students have access to the “This Is Language” website that has a wealth of engaging activities for independent learning.

We follow the EDEXCEL course at A-Level. Students use ‘*Dynamic Learning’*. There is also a range of other material available to supplement the text book. The department has topic files for oral topic preparation and staff also work closely with the school reference library.

OUR EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMME

We see our programme of visits as an integral part of our work. Year 7 students are offered a residential trip to France and KS5 students have the opportunity of work experience abroad. Year 8 students participate in a one-day interactive French performance experience entitled ‘Les Trois Mousquetaires’ The German department organises an exchange with a “Gymnasium” in Schopfheim in the Black Forest for students from Years 9 to 13, with Year 12 and 13 students benefiting from work experience as part of their exchange visit. The Italian department organises a study visit to Urbania for all students of Italian. The visit includes daily language lessons delivered by Italian teachers, cookery and ceramics sessions and a cultural visit to Perugia. Sixth Form students are also given the opportunity to complete a week’s work experience in Urbania.

There are also house competitions, an exciting European Day of Languages and a number of other activities which vary from year to year. We also have a highly stimulating Super Curriculum which we actively promote.