

MFL Curriculum intent KS3 and KS4

What the curriculum is designed to do

The curriculum for languages in both KS3 and KS4 aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources.
- Speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation.
- Can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt.
- Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

How we deliver the curriculum

- Currently Y7 students study German for half the year and then French for the other half. They will then be allocated a language for Y8 and Y9 based on their strengths. However, based on performance, they could have the option of studying French, German or Spanish at GCSE, beginning with our pre-GCSE course in Y9.
- Y9 students who do not opt for a language in Y9 at pre-GCSE level will study Short Course Spanish and Culture.
- Key stage 3 classes have two lessons per week, and Key stage 4 classes have three classes per week.
- From Y7 onwards, all topics taught, and schemes of work are taken from the GCSE themes below.

How we assess students

- Assessments reflect GCSE from Y7; all assessments will be similar to a type of GCSE question for all four skills in KS3 and KS4 —reading, writing, listening and speaking. There are six formal assessment points during the year and assessments usually consist of two GCSE skills each time, apart from Y10 and Y11 who will also have full mock exams.
- At GCSE there are currently four terminal exams in Y11 based on the themes below, but in 2026 a new GCSE MFL specification and assessment will commence.
- **GCSE themes**
 - Theme 1:** Identity & culture
 - Theme 2:** Local, national, international & global areas of interest
 - Theme 3:** Current & future study & employment

How it benefits students' learning and personal development

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. Our high-quality languages education fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. Our teaching enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. Teaching focusses on developing the breadth and depth of pupils' competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing, based on a sound foundation of core grammar and vocabulary. It enables pupils to understand and communicate personal and factual information that goes beyond their immediate needs and interests, developing and justifying points of view in speech and writing, with increased spontaneity, independence and accuracy.

We also provide opportunities for students to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read literature in the original language at GCSE. Our language teaching provides the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries and be global citizens.