



# Modern Foreign Languages

**Welcome to the Modern Foreign Languages Department**

**Curriculum Information 2018 - 2019**

## **The Team:**

Miss L Reynolds	Head of Department, Teacher of French and Spanish
Mrs S Rossetti-Gearing	Teacher of French and Spanish
Mrs Penny Riddell	Teacher of Spanish and French

## **Introduction to the Department:**

In the MFL Department we aim to:

- Develop the ability to understand and use the chosen foreign language effectively for the purposes of practical communication.
- Develop the ability to use the chosen language and to understand the language used both imaginatively and creatively.
- Develop an understanding and practical application of the grammar of the chosen language.
- Offer insights into the culture and civilization of the countries and communities that speak the chosen language.
- Encourage positive attitudes to foreign language learning and to speakers of foreign languages and a positive approach to other cultures and civilizations.
- Develop pupils' understanding of themselves and their own culture.
- Provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.
- Form a sound base of skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure.
- Promote skills, which have a wider application such as information technology, and learning skills (e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing inference).

## **Key Stage 3 Information:**

### **Year 7**

Pupils study French or Spanish for four 60 minute lessons per fortnight. In addition to developing a range of language learning skills, pupils will cover topics such as: greetings, introducing myself and my family, describing where I live, daily routine and school. Geographical, cultural and some historical facts about France/Spain/Latin America will be covered. The present tense will be studied and also a range of opinion vocabulary.

### **Year 8**

Pupils continue with four hours per fortnight of French or Spanish. Through building up a range of language learning skills, pupils will cover topics such as: family, jobs, weather, free time activities, outings, media, meeting new people, staying in Spain, fashion, food and drink including eating out at a café/restaurant. Pupils will also cover simple French/Spanish recipes. The present tense will be revised and the perfect tense as well as the near future will be introduced.

### **Year 9**

Pupils continue with four hours per fortnight of French or Spanish. In addition to developing a range of language learning skills, pupils will cover topics such as: hobbies including cinema, TV, music and books. Fashion, leisure, future plans, healthy living, giving advice, sports, talking about when you were little, creating a fairy tale and own crime scene story, arranging a holiday to France/Spain, places to visit, hotel bookings and transport. Finally, pupils will study world issues, school, young people and work, tolerance and human rights. Past, present and future tenses as well as a range of more in depth opinion structures will also be covered.

## **Key Stage 4 Information:**

### **Examination Board:**

We follow the AQA exam board.

### **Qualification to be obtained:**

GCSE French  
GCSE Spanish

### **Course content:**

The themes and topics on which the course is based come under 3 titles:

**Theme 1:** Identity and Culture

**Theme 2:** Local, National, International and Global areas of interest

**Theme 3:** Current and future study and employment

### **Course objectives:**

The principal objective of the course is to develop each pupil's ability to use the French or Spanish language effectively for purposes of practical communication through both the spoken and written word. In lessons pupils are encouraged to speak the target language at every opportunity and there are weekly learning home-works to improve vocabulary. Pupils are also taught about the culture of either France or Spain and are encouraged to take an interest in European current affairs.

## **Assessment:**

GCSE French and Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Pupils must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

<p><b>Paper 1:</b> Listening exam</p> <p><b>What's assessed:</b> Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.</p> <p><b>How it's assessed:</b> Written exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 35 minutes (Foundation Tier)</li><li>• 45 minutes (Higher Tier)</li></ul> <p>40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)</p> <p>(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)</p> <p><b>Questions Foundation Tier and Higher Tier:</b></p> <p>Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally</p>	25%
<p><b>Paper 2:</b> Speaking exam (7-9 minutes Foundation Tier/10-12 minutes Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>What's assessed:</b> Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.</p> <p><b>How it's assessed:</b> Non-exam assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time</li><li>• 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time</li></ul> <p>60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>Questions Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</b></p> <p>The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:</p> <p>Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier) Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier) General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)</p>	25%
<p><b>Paper 3:</b> Reading exam (45 minutes Foundation Tier/1 hour Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>What's assessed:</b> Understanding and responding to different types of written language</p> <p><b>How it's assessed:</b> Written exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 45 minutes (Foundation Tier)</li><li>• 1 hour (Higher Tier)</li></ul> <p>60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>Questions Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</b></p> <p>Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)</p>	25%
<p><b>Paper 4:</b> Writing exam (1 hour Foundation Tier/1.15 Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>What's assessed:</b> Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes</p> <p><b>How it's assessed:</b> Written exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 hour (Foundation Tier)</li><li>• 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)</li></ul> <p>50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier • 25% of GCSE</p>	25%

**Questions Foundation Tier**

Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks

Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks

Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks

Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

**Questions Higher Tier**

Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks

Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

GCSE pupils will be assessed regularly throughout the course using grammar assessments, vocabulary tests and practice GCSE papers.

**Further information/resources:**

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

[www.gcse.bitesize.co.uk](http://www.gcse.bitesize.co.uk)

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)

[www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com)