

Modern Foreign Languages post – May 2016

The Modern Foreign Languages department has six members: three full time teachers of French, or French and Spanish; one part time teacher of French; one full-time teacher of French and German; and one part-time teacher of German, who is also teacher in charge of German. There are also French, German and Spanish assistants. The department is housed in a new classroom block, equipped with touchscreens.

There is a strong cooperative ethos in the department and the new teacher will be joining an experienced, talented and very successful department.

All students learn French from Year 7 to Year 11 and are entered for GCSE French (AQA). In Y10 and Y11 there are usually 30-40 dual linguists (studying German or Spanish as an option, on top of French). In French between 40% and 50% of pupils usually achieve grade A* or A at GCSE. Very few achieve less than a C. Students work hard and expectations are high. Results are similar in German and Spanish.

Pupils have four French lessons of 40 minutes a week, except for Y8 when they have five. In addition there are two homework slots per week. German and Spanish are introduced over three periods a week for half a year to all pupils in Y9. Thereafter they are options at GCSE, which may be studied alongside the core language of French. We currently use the *Listos* course in Y9, and *Mira* in Y10-11 for Spanish. In German we use *Echo Express* and *Echo*. The new colleague would teach German at Y10, Y11 and A level, with the option of teaching lessons in Y9 as well.

The course we use in French is *Tricolore Total*. There are comprehensive schemes of work and a wide range of resources, including many of our own. All students have their own textbook. A considerable number of pupils continue French to A-level (16 in 2015) and French is considered a popular subject. German and Spanish groups at A-Level vary in size, but Spanish is growing in popularity, with 5 in the current Year 13 group. An ability to teach French throughout the curriculum is considered desirable.

The Modern Foreign Languages department is committed to changing the curriculum it offers in the coming year, resulting in students having a free choice between the three languages at the end of Y9. It is hoped that a dynamic new colleague will take advantage of this positive development, resulting in many opting for German at GCSE and A level.

The school has a long-running French exchange for Y10 and Y12/13 students, and at the end of Y8 almost all pupils spend a week in Normandy. AS German students also take part in work experience, and in 2015 a group of Y9 pupils visited Berlin. In addition, there have been a number study visits and cultural trips to Spain over the last few years. There is scope for the further development of German exchanges and trips in the future.

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