

Curriculum Rationale

Subject	French and Spanish
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	Key Stage 4	
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Intent

Learning a foreign language is a skill for life which will enhance both communication skills and employment prospects. It also provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. Learning should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for students to communicate for practical purposes; learn new ways of thinking and read literature in the original language. Language acquisition should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries and enable them to communicate with people from other countries, whilst working in this country. The study of a modern foreign language at GCSE should also broaden students' horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world.

Students are taught to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources. They are encouraged to 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. As far as writing is concerned, by the end of Key Stage 4, students should write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt. Through their studies, students can also discover and develop an appreciation of the culture in countries where French/Spanish is the official language.

The examination comprises 4 components, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. All skills are equally-weighted and each contribute 25% towards a student's final GCSE grade (9-1).

The themes covered are: Identity and culture; Local area, holiday and travel; School; Future aspirations, study and work; International and global dimension.

Studying French/ Spanish for GCSE enables students to continue developing the language skills they have acquired at KS3 and to learn to use the language more independently as well as gaining a greater insight into the culture of the French/ Spanish - speaking world.

We use the Edexcel exam board and the specification provided by Pearson, (who provide the Active Learn resources for the Edexcel GCSE courses) is very thorough, the sequence of modules is logical and it generally looks appealing to students of this age.

Implementation

In French/ Spanish the curriculum is designed to ensure that all students are equipped with an effective bank of language learning tools and skills for current study and future life. We have an aspirational and exciting curriculum, which promotes a curiosity around languages and supports students in becoming successful language learners. Students have the opportunity to develop and refine their listening, reading, writing, speaking, translation and core grammar skills. Authentic target language resources are utilised to engage students and give students access to the French

and Spanish speaking world. Students are encouraged and supported in developing their spoken skills with a focus on the natural acquisition of language. Throughout years 9-11, students follow a progression model, which builds on the skills they have developed in their previous schools. Students will advance and perfect their skills through the medium of challenging and thought-provoking subject content.

Students in years 9 and 10 receive 2 hours per week and students in year 11 have 3 hours per week together with regular intervention sessions at lunch times to develop skills as necessary.

Students study modules 1-3 in year 9, Modules 4-6 in year 10 and modules 7 and 8 in year 11 with end of year testing in all four skills in the June of each academic year. (Year 11 have mock GCSEs and PPE's, together with mock speaking exams. The modules ensure that whilst some grammar is recycled, the more complex grammatical constructions together with more thought-provoking content is delivered in year 11. This ensures a 'foundation year' for year 9 students, building on their existing knowledge and deepening it to make it more relevant for GCSE exams.

Impact

Students will:

- Develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- Deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary in order for them to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a wide range of contexts
- Acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, adapted and abridged, as appropriate, including literary texts
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- Be encouraged to make appropriate links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning, where the language may become a medium for constructing and applying knowledge
- Develop language learning skills both for immediate use and to prepare them for further language study and use in school, higher education or in employment
- Develop language strategies, including repair strategies.