

Languages- Aims/Intent

Teaching may be of any modern foreign language and should build on the foundations of language learning laid at key stage 2, whether students continue with the same language or take up a new one. Teaching focuses on developing the breadth and depth of students' competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing, based on a sound foundation of phonics, core grammar and vocabulary. This enables students 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, providing suitable preparation for further study.

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages curriculum fosters students' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world, enabling pupils to communicate their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to what they read and hear.

Our intent is to provide opportunities for students to:

1. Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
2. 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
3. Can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
4. Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

The top five reasons for learning a language:

1. You don't just learn the subject; you fall in love with it.
2. English is not enough! The world has become a much smaller place. It's really important that you learn to speak with and understand other people no matter where they are from.
3. You can travel all over the world and feel like a true local.
4. Languages are the perfect way to meet new people, immerse yourself in new cultures and make a difference to who you are.
5. Speaking another language really makes you stand out from the crowd and you will be able to work anywhere in the world.

Implementation

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language that goes to his heart." Nelson Mandela

Key stage 3:

During Key Stage 3, students learn French and Spanish. At the start of Y7 students are given a short assessment to evaluate their knowledge of languages and to identify any language-learning skills they may have already gained whilst at primary school. Students acquire competence and confidence in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Homework, in the early years of learning a language, is crucial to success and students are expected to learn vocabulary regularly in order to provide a solid foundation for future study.

AQA Specification

Key stage 4:

At GCSE all students have the opportunity to study either French and/or Spanish as a GCSE course. Students have three years in which they develop their knowledge of the topic vocabulary, acquire sound grammar proficiency and focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing skills for final assessment by examinations in Year 11. We follow the AQA syllabus in both languages. Residential trips to France and Spain are organised annually.

Key stage 5:

Language students who achieve at least a Grade 6 in GCSE French or Spanish are able to proceed to the A Level French or Spanish course. These are demanding yet stimulating courses that provide a firm basis for further study.

Impact

Languages provide opportunities for students to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping students to study and work in other countries. Students know the value of languages both as a life skill and as an asset in the work place.

Enrichment opportunities

Students have the opportunity to take part in the Language Leaders' programme to support other students in different year groups. We also run several residential trips to France and Spain. These trips support students' understanding of language and culture.