

Modern Foreign Languages - Key Stage 4

GCSE French, German and Spanish

In Languages we aim to give you the necessary language skills to cope in a variety of everyday situations when abroad – to save you the embarrassment of not being able to get what you want in a shop, or book a train ticket or a hotel room. We also, of course, aim to give you a sound grammatical knowledge of each language in case you should wish to go on and study the language further. Where possible, Year 10 and 11 GCSE classes have regular lessons with our language assistants to improve your oral ability. Given time you could be one of those lucky people whose job involves foreign travel – it's better than having to pay for your holidays!

What will the course involve ?

EXAMINATION BOARD: Edexcel

GCSE ASSESSMENT DETAILS: Listening 20% Reading 20% Speaking 30% Writing 30%

Teachers and students will have considerable control over content in the Speaking and Writing units and are free to focus on one or more of the following broad themes:- 1. Media and Culture 2. Sport and Leisure 3. Work and lifestyle 4. Business and Employment 5. A school-derived option (which can be linked to other areas of the curriculum)

There is no large speaking examination at the end of the course but students undertake controlled assessments which are marked by their teacher and moderated. Students complete different speaking tasks during the course and the best two marks are submitted towards the qualification. Students have some choice about the subjects of their speaking tasks. There is no coursework but there are controlled assessments, two separate writing tasks that can be completed at appropriate points during the course. There will be some choice over the subjects of the writing tasks. This new course allows flexibility, choice and scope for personalised learning!

What can I do with it beyond 16?

Modern languages can give you an advantage in the employment world. A language is increasingly useful for careers in industry, technology and engineering as well as many aspects of commerce. You won't be employable as a "linguist" (translator, interpreter, teacher etc) unless you go on to

take a degree in one or more languages, but even if you stop at GCSE level, you will still have given yourself a very useful qualification. Some universities make a GCSE in a language an entrance requirement.

At GCSE, as far as careers go, all modern languages are of similar value. French, German, Russian, Spanish and Italian are all useful in business and industry. They also give a valuable skill to anyone wishing to study arts subjects (history, English, art history etc) in higher education. If you plan to go on to higher education in modern languages, it is a good idea to study two at GCSE level. However, you can now take languages from scratch at universities and colleges of Higher Education, especially the less usual ones such as Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic or African languages. Remember that once you have learned one language, it is much easier to learn another.