

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Course Content

Teaching and learning focuses on language acquisition through developing a range of language learning strategies. The emphasis is on encouraging learners to learn, understand and use key language.

Languages is traditionally split into four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and work centres on developing ability in each area. Lesson activities may include exploiting a text for comprehension, listening to authentic materials online or cd, engaging in role-play or enjoying interactive games. We aim for learners to have regular ICT based lessons throughout KS3 & KS4. We subscribe to Linguascope which learners are encouraged to access from home as well as in ICT based lessons.

In both key stages learners are strongly encouraged to make links with any other languages that they know and to share this information with the class.

KS3

Year 7 Spanish: Listos 1 books



Year 8 Spanish : Listos 1 and 2 books

Learners follow a curriculum that is diverse in themes and rich in grammar. As well as learning to communicate in different contexts, learners also practise key transactional language items which will enable them to get around in Spanish speaking countries. There are opportunities to look at cultural aspects of Spain and Spanish speaking countries.

Year 9 Spanish: Mira 3 book.

Y9 curriculum covers the following themes:

- Media and culture e.g. music, film, reading, fashion, internet
- Sport and leisure e.g. leisure activities, hobbies, lifestyle choices
- Travel and tourism e.g. holidays, accommodation, eating, food and drink
- Business, work and employment e.g. work experience/part time jobs, product or service information

We prepare a lot of our own resources which are then used to further supplement the main text books.

KS4

Spanish

The new Mira AQA book and its GCSE curriculum covers the following themes:

- Media and culture e.g. music, film, reading, fashion, internet
- Sport and leisure e.g. leisure activities, hobbies, lifestyle choices
- Travel and tourism e.g. holidays, accommodation, eating, food and drink
- Business, work and employment e.g. work experience/part time jobs, product or service information

Within each theme, learners perform listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. These tasks enable learners to explore the communicative and linguistic structures of the language as well as gaining cultural awareness.

We follow the AQA Examination Board: Learners are entered for Foundation or Higher Tier in listening and reading whereas speaking and writing is untiered . The marks are weighted as indicated below:

- Listening and understanding - 20%
- Speaking - 30%
- Reading and understanding - 20%
- Writing - 30%

Learners are externally examined in Listening and Reading. Controlled assessments are conducted in Writing and Speaking.

How Learners Are Assessed

KS3

Students are assessed on their progress in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language using a variety of forms of assessment across the four skill areas. This usually occurs once a half term. Both formative and summative assessments are carried out and targets are set for learners in line with school policy. Peer assessment also plays an integral part in the work of the department.

KS4

The four skills are divided and assessed as follows:

Listening – Learners practise listening to stimuli from a variety of sources and are assessed in a final listening assessment which counts for 20% of the GCSE award.

Speaking - Regular classroom practice and access to a language assistant from the target-language country means that learners benefit from speaking practice tailored to the individual. We aim to develop learners who are able to answer spontaneously and narrate events in a variety of tenses. This part of the course is assessed in a 12-minute oral exam and is worth 30 % of the GCSE.

Reading – Learners practise reading texts from a variety of genres, including authentic texts from magazines, novels and newspapers. Reading ability is assessed in a final exam worth 20% of the GCSE.

Writing - Learners must produce at least three pieces of coursework with example titles ranging from "The school of the future" to "A letter to a problem page" and "Advertising my local area". This coursework element of the GCSE also counts for 30% of the final award. The overall aim of Modern Foreign Languages at GCSE is to develop learners who can express their ideas and points of view clearly and with confidence in the target language, while providing them with the tools to deal with situations that could arise when travelling abroad or in their future careers.

Homework

Homework is recognised as an integral part of learning and is set according to school policy. Typical homework activities will include learning vocabulary, preparing short presentations or responses for speaking, writing sentences or a short paragraph on the topic studied, reading a text and answering questions. There are opportunities for research which may lead to an extended piece of writing.