

KS3 Curriculum Information

All students in KS3 study a Modern Foreign Language (either French or Spanish) until the end of Year 9 as part of the statutory core curriculum. The language they study will depend on the tutor group in which they are placed.

Year 7, 8 and 9

Students are taught French or Spanish for 2 lessons per week. The schemes of work have been created by the department staff to be both suitable and challenging for students of this age, reflecting the new Key Performance Indicators relevant to MFL and encouraging students to aim to be able to communicate essential information in their assigned language.

KS4 Curriculum Information

Students opting for French or Spanish GCSE follow the Pearson Edexcel examinations board GCSE syllabus.

Although the study of a Modern Foreign Language is optional at KS4, we encourage our students to study a language for GCSE as part of a broad and balanced option choice.

Years 10 & 11

Students have 3 lessons per week per language chosen. They may also be offered additional intervention and a small number of talented dual linguists take a second language as an afterschool class.

GCSE consists of :

Listening (a terminal examination worth 25%)

Speaking (a terminal examination, conducted internally by Department staff and worth 25%)

Reading (a terminal examination worth 25%)

Writing (a terminal examination worth 25%)

KS5 Curriculum Information

Years 12 & 13

A Level courses are offered in the Sixth Form, subject to student demand. Currently Spanish is running. French, Spanish and German follow the Pearson Edexcel examinations board. Students are examined in all four skills (Listening and response, Speaking, Reading and response, and Writing) in terminal examinations and 13. They will study both a film and a work of Spanish literature as part of the course.

Teaching and Learning

The schemes of work for French and Spanish are all designed to give the students a practical working knowledge of the language and are based on a communicative approach to learning. Students are encouraged to participate actively and learning through the use of ICT is also strongly promoted.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Homework help (all years) and weekly booster GCSE / A level revision and intervention classes. More able KS4 students (particularly those expressing a desire to study two languages at GCSE) are offered after school support with their second language.

Key Trips

We aim to organise trips to France and Spain subject to demand and capacity. Costs depend on destination and numbers and will be explained when trips are offered.

Ways Families can Help Support

Encourage students to learn all vocabulary and phrases covered during lessons on a regular basis.

A dictionary would be useful at KS3 and KS4 and is essential at KS5.

There are many MFL vocabulary practice websites available online, and BBC Bitesize has excellent exam practice while www.languagesonline.org has both grammar and vocabulary practice.

Any Other Information

Contact Ms Lorimer (Head of Department) clorimer@raynespark.merton.sch.uk for any further information.