

Statement of Intent

Studying Spanish or French will help the development of students' ability to operate in a global setting. Knowledge of another language and culture aids understanding of world issues and enables students to function in a second language environment, thus raising their employability and expanding their personal horizons. Learning a second language has been proven to expand cognitive capacity and mental agility. Understanding the mechanics of a second language supports students in improving their understanding of their first language and enriches their English vocabulary. The language learning techniques delivered in lessons will support students in learning other languages in the future where needed.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students study either Spanish or French. They have 2 60 minute lessons per week and will be set one piece of homework to support their learning in class. Learning is assessed at the end of each topic based unit.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

We follow the Edexcel GCSE specification and the assessment is broken down into 4 papers each worth 25% of the final grade; listening, speaking, reading and writing. Speaking is assessed through a one to one oral examination with the class teacher.

Areas of study are: self and identity, holidays and local area, school, jobs and future plans and global issues.

Students have 3x 60 minute lessons per week and will be set one piece of homework to support their learning in class.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

We follow the Edexcel A-level Spanish specification and the assessment is broken down into 3 papers: listening reading and translation, speaking, and written response to film and literary texts. The oral examination is based around a research project on a cultural topic of the student's choice.

Topics studied include: Changes in Spanish society (family, work and tourism), music, festivals and gastronomy of Spain and Latin America, immigration and integration and the Spanish Civil War, the Franco dictatorship and the transition to democracy.

We also study a Spanish film and a play as part of the course.

Students have 5x 60 minute lessons per week and will be set two pieces of homework to support their learning in class.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

We offer extracurricular French/Spanish club to KS3 students wanting to add knowledge of an additional language to the one they study at school. Some of these students go on to become dual linguists at KS4. We offer KS5 students the opportunity to put leadership skills into practice by volunteering to support lower school students with their conversational skills. We have organised several residential trips abroad in recent years. We facilitate the full range of home language examinations at GCSE and A-level and support groups of students through these each year.

What parents can do to support extended learning in this subject

Parents can support their children by helping them engage with examples of other languages we see around and about, for example on restaurant menus or in song lyrics and they can watch subtitled foreign language films with their children. Parents can encourage their children to try out their language skills if abroad or when talking to friends or neighbours from other countries.

We subscribe to the website www.linguascope.com and students can use it to develop their vocabulary and improve memorisation through a range of language games. A password and username will be given to students in class.

The effectiveness of language learning apps has become apparent. We recommend students download free versions of 'Duolingo' or 'Memrise' onto a tablet or smartphone and make a few minutes of practice a part of their daily routine to improve their fluency quickly.