

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Modern Foreign Languages

Q. What is Modern Foreign Languages?

A. You will continue to study one or both of the languages you have been learning in Key Stage 3: Spanish, French and/or German. You will study a range of topics and learn to express your ideas about them orally and in writing. You will also work on reading and listening comprehension, and translation.

Q. What will I learn?

A. Languages are a life skill. Knowledge of a foreign language is not just another GCSE grade – it is a concrete and demonstrable life skill, like being able to drive a car or touch-type, and it is highly valued by employers.

Languages teach you communication skills and adaptability. Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages means you are less likely to be stuck in one mode of thinking. It can help you see things from a range of perspectives, develop your problem-solving skills, and make you more adaptable, resourceful and creative.

Languages teach you cultural awareness. The ability to operate cross-culturally is becoming just as valued by employers as straight language skills.

Languages give you a sense of achievement. Learning a language combines the intellectual with the practical as no other subject does. You need to be able to think on your feet, but when you can find exactly the right foreign word or phrase, you get a real sense of achievement.

Languages are a social skill. If you enjoy being with people and communicating with them, the chances are you'll enjoy being able to do this in a foreign language too.

Q. What syllabus will I follow?

- [AQA GCSE Spanish \(8698\)](#)
- [AQA GCSE French \(8658\)](#)
- [AQA GCSE German \(8668\)](#)

Q. How is the course structured?

Language units will be organised as:

- Identity and culture
- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life

- Free time activities
- Customs and festivals
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism
- Current and future study and employment
- My studies
- Life at school/college
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people.

Q. What homework will I get?

A. Students are expected to complete regular homework. This will include learning vocabulary and verb formations, practice in the use of grammatical structures, reading exercises, speaking presentations, extended pieces of writing and online learning including listening tasks. It is extremely important for students to have access to a bilingual dictionary and/or reference materials on the internet to assist them with language homework.

Q. What jobs or further courses of study might this lead to?

A. Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study. The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless – from Russian to Theatre Studies with Italian. Many universities even offer funding for students to continue or extend their language knowledge by travelling or working abroad during the long vacations.

Languages give you the edge in the job market. Today there is a global market for jobs. It is not necessary to be completely fluent in a foreign language to be an asset to any potential employer. Knowing how to meet and greet people from other countries and cultures is a valued skill.

Learning languages gives you greater opportunities to travel and work abroad. There are many opportunities to travel or work with organisations abroad where some knowledge of a foreign language is a clear advantage.

Q. Are there any entry requirements for this course?

A. You must have been studying the language(s) you choose in Key Stage 3. It is not possible to study a GCSE in a language at Beginner level.

Q. If I need additional support, what can I access?

A. You will have access to a number of online resources that relate directly to the GCSE Language course you are studying. These will include Quizlet and Active Learn, both of which will allow you and your teacher to keep track of your learning.

Languages teachers are also available for individual support.

Q. At home we speak another language, can my son / daughter take the GCSE in this language? If so, does my son / daughter still need to take one language offered by the school in KS4?

A. If there is an exam board that offers the GCSE in the language you speak at home, the school would make provisions for your child to do the GCSE in that language. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Nevertheless, your child will have to continue studying a language that the school offers in KS4.