

Modern Foreign Language studies in KS4

We offer two courses of study to students in KS4 – GCSE and NVQ.

The majority of students in our current Y11 are studying GCSE courses in German, Mandarin or Spanish. A small number are studying an NVQ course (German or Spanish).

Students in our current Y10 are studying either GCSE (French, German, Mandarin or Spanish) or NVQ levels 1-2 (French or Spanish).

Students in our current Y9 are either studying for NVQ levels 1-2 (French or Spanish) or have started a combination of GCSE MFL courses (2 languages from French, German, Mandarin and Spanish).

Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Mandarin or German)

GCSE (AQA) Specification A

Introduction

In our ever changing world that becomes more and more global daily, studying a language further is essential for success in the world of work.

The GCSE course provides each student with the opportunity to consolidate and develop language skills already learnt in Key Stage 3: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Course content

The GCSE course is assessed at two levels – Foundation and Higher.

Students may take a combination of these papers in order to maximize their final grade.

Throughout the course students, as they progress linguistically, students will be expected to:

1. cope with a greater degree of unpredictability;
2. deal with a widening range of potential problems;
3. understand and use more accurately a widening
4. range of vocabulary and structures, including some unfamiliar language;
5. understand issues and opinions;
6. discuss issues and give opinions;
7. give full descriptions and accounts.

The course is based around four main topic areas and students will be expected to understand and provide information and opinions about the topics in relation to their own experiences and lives and those of other people, including people in countries where the language is spoken.

1. **Lifestyle** (Health, Relationships and Choices)
2. **Leisure** (Free Time, the Media and Holidays)
3. **Home and Environment** (Home, Local Area and the Environment)
4. **Work and Education** (School/College, Future Plans, Current and Future Jobs)

Assessment

Listening and Reading exams are set and marked by AQA. Both are worth 20%, Speaking and Writing are examined through Controlled Assessment. Both are worth 30%.

Why study Modern Foreign Languages?

Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

Students with GCSE MFL have a solid foundation for A Levels in MFL and are more likely to be accepted onto higher education courses across all subjects. This is especially the case if you are hoping to continue on to university. Recent studies show that employers prefer

candidates who have solid language qualifications. In today's world where 75% of the population do not speak English it is absolutely vital to be able to communicate with people outside the UK.

The unemployment rate amongst young people with language qualifications is substantially lower than among those without and they attract considerably higher salaries.

For further information contact: Miss C Butler (Director of Learning MFL)

NVQ French and Spanish (OCR specification)

This course is a work-related qualification and is a mix of language and business.

Students learn how to speak/understand/read/write predictable French, German or Spanish in the context of familiar everyday work situations.

Each student builds up a portfolio of evidence showing their progress during the course.

Assessment is based on this portfolio so there is no final exam at the end.

The course covers the four skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

- Level 1 : equates to E - G at GCSE
- Level 2: equates to B - D at GCSE