

Modern Foreign Languages

St John's Modern Foreign Language (MFL) department is a popular and dynamic teaching environment. We are three highly qualified and experienced teachers, who are passionate about their subject and the breath of opportunity studying Modern Foreign Languages provides.

We offer two languages French and Spanish and we combine traditional teaching methods with digital resources such as the Kerboodle program as well as access to various websites. All our pupils are encouraged to study one language from Form 1 (Year 3) all the way to GCSE.

Cultural opportunities offered in the recent years include residential trips to France and Spain, theatre company visits and performing short plays written by our students.

Our pupils are set from Upper 3 (Year 7) and our class sizes average 12 students per set, giving children plenty of opportunity to practice the target language in interactive pair/group work situations. It is important to be consistent and supportive and to use each target language as a positive and normal method of communication however there will be occasions when using the target language may impede comprehension e.g. when teaching grammatical points, checking homework tasks have been understood, explaining single words of vocabulary. The most important thing is that each pupil progresses and increases in confidence when using the target language, whatever their age or ability.

Our Key Stage 3 pupils follow Allez (French) and Zoom (Spanish) textbooks, covering topics such as family, holidays, school, going out, daily routine, jobs, sports and hobbies. Pupils are assessed when they reach the end of a unit of study, approximately every half term. Pupils usually sit tests in two or three of the four attainment skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Homework, which is set every week, is also a good form of assessment.

For Lower and Upper 5 (Years 10 and 11) GCSE years, we follow the Edexcel 9-1 French and Spanish courses addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are Identity and culture, Local area, holiday and travel, School, Future aspirations, study and work and International and global dimension. Homework is regularly set, in the shape of either writing practice, past papers..., to show that students can work independently and feedback is always given to ensure students make progress.

All GCSE language students will sit a terminal examination in each of the four skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). All skills are externally marked.