

Department ethos

We believe that learning a language is an exciting and enjoyable challenge for all students. In language lessons, we aim to create a supportive environment, where students feel comfortable speaking in the target language, and are not afraid to make mistakes. We use a variety of teaching activities to develop students' communication skills, and regularly teach phonics to improve pronunciation and spelling. Students are also encouraged to enhance their learning independently using a number of language websites and through film, music and literature.

Courses and resources

KS3 students study both French and German, building upon language skills obtained at primary school. Our aim is to provide students with a solid foundation in both languages, which can be built upon for future language learning.

KS4 students can opt to study French, German or both languages. We currently follow the AQA GCSE specification. All GCSE students have regular small group sessions with our language assistants. Pre-pandemic, we ran an annual residential trip for KS4 students, alternating between France and Germany, which we are looking to re-introduce in 2024.

At KS5 we follow the Edexcel A-Level French and German courses. A-Level linguists additionally have one-to-one lessons with our language assistants.

We do not follow one specific textbook, preferring to work collaboratively to develop resources that suit the needs of all our learners. However, we do have access to a wide selection, including Equipe, Expo, Allez, Echo Express, Stimmt as well as AQA GCSE and Edexcel A-Level course books in French and German. We also subscribe to Kerboodle for KS4 French and German.

Each classroom is equipped with a data projector and speakers and all members of staff have their own laptop. The Department has an extensive range of both paper resources and e-resources and we make use of a variety of software and websites including Linguascope and Languagenut.

Teaching Groups

Where possible members of the department teach across the full ability and age range in both French and German. We believe in a languages for all policy, and as such, all students study both languages in KS3. In KS4, students are in mixed ability groups, and we encourage gifted linguists to study both languages.