



Haydock High School Modern Foreign Language Department – Curriculum

Aims of the Department

The MFL Department aims to provide a stimulating and positive learning environment in which students can achieve their true potential in the skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. We teach using a variety of learning styles and hope that all students will be able to communicate successfully in Spanish and/or French.

We aim to offer an inclusive curriculum at Key Stage 3 where everybody is offered the opportunity to study a Modern Foreign Language. We hope to foster rich and varied links with people abroad through trips to other countries and educational visits, thus developing a love of language and cultural differences that exist in the world.

Curriculum Ethos

Students will have the opportunity to learn both Spanish and/or French throughout Key Stage 3. They will learn to communicate through the skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. We hope that by the end of Year 8, all students will have a firm foundation to prepare them for the requirements of GCSE and ultimately the world of work. Students will have the option to study a second language at Key Stage 4 should they wish.

Students will develop their knowledge of Spanish following a skill-based curriculum initially based on phonics, allowing students to become confident with the links between the spoken and written forms from the outset. Literacy and the ability to manipulate grammar are core priorities in this foundation stage of language learning. Content will gel together these skills through the topic of personal information and cultural units such as Día de los Muertos, Miró and South America (Year 7), continuing with education, holidays and free time (Year 8).

During Years 9-11, students follow GCSE (AQA).

GCSE is a 100% terminal examination (Listening 25%, Speaking 25%, Reading 25% and Writing 25%).

In Key Stage 4, we hope that students will further develop their linguistic ability and become masters of skills for life. Importance will be placed on communicative competence, underpinned by spontaneity and fluency in delivery, thus supporting their personal progress in literacy and numeracy.

Homework

At KS3, students undertake homework tasks every week. Tasks are designed to be enjoyable and broaden student's knowledge of the topics and skills covered in class, as well as to allow students to research and present new learning in an individual way. As learning and memorising vocabulary is of key importance when learning a language, students also have a coordinated timetable of learning linked to topics and skills covered.



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At KS4, students maintain their learning tasks in addition to completing independent work to support revision, grammar skills and extended writing etc. Tasks ensure students are fully prepared for examinations at the end of the course, as well as spontaneous language use in future life.

Wider Engagement

The department offers various trips abroad; past trips have been to Lille, Paris, Brussels and Barcelona - as well as trips to the European Christmas Markets in Manchester! Through these visits we hope to broaden the horizons of our learners, giving them an insight into the wonderful and varied mix of cultures and experiences that the world as a whole has to offer - as well as preparing them for working life. Learning a language opens countless doors to interesting careers – from journalism to travel and tourism, from marketing to translation.

Learning a language doesn't limit your choices – it extends them!