

Modern Languages

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specifications: French 2FR01, German 2GN01, Spanish 2SP01

What will I learn?

The study of a foreign language offers many opportunities to you including the chance:

- To develop an understanding of a foreign language in a variety of contexts.
- To develop a knowledge of the vocabulary and structures of the language.
- To develop transferable language learning skills.
- To develop the ability to communicate effectively in the language.
- To develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where the language is spoken.
- To offer enjoyment, a sense of achievement and intellectual stimulation.

In class you will work on a variety of listening and reading materials tied to the topics below. You will also have the opportunity to speak and write about these topics in a variety of contexts using an increasing range of constructions and tenses. You will certainly be expected to have opinions and be able to justify them. All languages offer exchanges with schools in the country you are learning about. These trips are always very popular and are a wonderful life experience as well as the chance to develop your language skills in an authentic context.

How will I be assessed?

At GCSE the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing are separately assessed. The two comprehension skills (listening and reading) are tested through a range of passages or interactions in the foreign language with questions in various forms. These questions types will all be in English, and will include a variety of verbal and non-verbal responses to show understanding. The comprehension papers will be taken at the end of Year 11 as an externally assessed exam, and together they make up 40% of the total GCSE. We anticipate that all girls will take the higher tier papers for these exams.

The productive skills (speaking and writing) will be assessed internally during the GCSE course and make up 60% of the GCSE. The focus of the speaking unit will be chosen by the teacher and will relate to one or more of the themes below. You will be assessed in class on two different types of speaking activity each lasting 4-6 minutes. Task types include an open interaction, a picture-based free-flowing discussion and a presentation followed by questions and answers. Speaking assessment will be marked by the class teacher.

For the written exam, you will be assessed on written work produced in two assessment sessions, each of which will last no more than one hour. As all girls will be aiming for at least a B grade, the assessments will each have to be a minimum of 200 words long, but most girls write close to 300 words. These assessments are marked by the exam board.

The speaking and writing assessment are timetabled in Y10 and Y11. The assessments will take place just after the teaching of the relevant topic so this is fresh. Notes and dictionaries will be allowed in the written assessments, and also in preparation for the speaking assessments. Both assessments may be retaken during the course.

Course content:

- media and culture
- sport and leisure
- travel and tourism
- business, work and employment

Style of Teaching and Learning

The course follows an up-to-date text book linked to the exam featuring extensive use of ICT, authentic reading and listening materials and a variety of speaking and writing tasks. We teach grammar explicitly as this gives a good grounding for further study, Homework will including work on all four skills as well as regular tests on vocabulary and grammar.