

**Modern Foreign Languages – Years 7 & 8**

Head of Department: Mr F Murray

**Content**

We aim to generate enthusiasm for language learning and interest in another country and culture. Emphasis is placed on practical communication skills, as well as personal skills, with both group and pair work forming an integral part of our teaching. Students are encouraged to use the foreign language as much as possible during lessons and are given every opportunity to demonstrate their ability at various levels in all four skill areas (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). In lessons we also endeavour to broaden the cultural and historical knowledge of the language and its sources, as well as develop personal skills such as resilience, creativity and resourcefulness. The use of Information and Communication Technology is encouraged, as appropriate.

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed each half term on the topic and skills that they have been studying. Students will be assessed in the four skill areas listening, reading, writing and speaking. These assessments are conducted in exams conditions and are marked using the Fleet Index which gives a clear picture as to which grade each student is on track for. Following these examinations, each student is asked to reflect on their performance and is requested to set him/herself clear and realistic targets for improvement, which are then reviewed on a regular basis by the teacher.

Students will also be assessed in a number of different ways including various classwork activities and homework tasks; from vocabulary spelling tests, reading and listening comprehension activities, paragraphs writing, pronunciation and intonation exercises, research skills tests to independent work tests. These day to day checks help the teacher assess the students' strengths and areas of weaknesses so they can put support in place.

Assessment at KS3 will be based on the sort of skills that are used at GCSE level. This will allow a seamless transfer between the two key stages and ensure that students are well trained for the demands of learning languages at GCSE level.

**How Parents and Carers can support**

There are many ways, even when the parents and carers have no knowledge of modern foreign Languages:

- ✓ Homework: it is set weekly in Foreign Modern Languages so please check what your child has been set and help them in completing it to the best of their ability.
- ✓ Vocabulary learning: even when it is not specified in the planner, do ask what new vocabulary has your child learnt every week and, if possible, test them on how much they remember it.
- ✓ Listening skills: the more your child listens to French, Spanish or German at home, the more their listening and pronunciation skills will improve so encourage them to watch movies in the foreign language they are learning or listen to a foreign internet radio. Even if they don't understand, they will get better over time!
- ✓ Reading skills: encourage reading in the foreign language at home! Get them subscribed to the excellent Mary Glasgow Magazines which offer fantastic, age appropriate, news articles, games, interviews etc in the foreign language.
- ✓ Grammar: there are hundreds of very good websites that give access to grammar explanations, grammar exercises and games to help your child get their head around that dreaded past tense. All of the recommended ones are in their booklet stapled at the front of their exercises book.



French – Years 9, 10 & 11	Head of Department: Mr L Jones
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**Exam Board and Syllabus Code:** AQA GCSE 8658

### Content

In Years 10 and 11 students are grouped according to ability. We aim to develop the student's skill to use a foreign language for effective communication, to develop a sound basis of skills for work, leisure and further study and to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of France and the French speaking world.

There are three strands to the GCSE in French and the following topic areas are covered: Theme 1: Identity and culture; Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest; Theme 3: Current and future study and employment. Emphasis is placed on practical communication skills with both group and pair work continuing to form an integral part of our teaching. Students are encouraged to use the foreign language as much as possible during lessons and are required to demonstrate their ability in the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### Assessment

- Students will sit four separate examinations at the end of the course in the skill areas of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each skill area is worth 25% of the overall GCSE grade.
- The four skill areas can be assessed at foundation or higher level but students must take the same tier of entry for each of the four skill areas.
- Listening, reading and writing will be assessed in the whole as examinations. The speaking examination (oral) will be conducted at the end of the course. All elements are externally assessed.
- Throughout Year 10 and Year 11, students are assessed half termly on their listening and reading skills through "mini-mocks" exam papers; these are a compilation of past papers exercises on the topic the students have been studying that term and are marked using GCSE grades, thus giving students a clear indication of their progress in the four skills.

### How Parents and Carers can support

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- ✓ Homework: it is set weekly in Foreign Modern Languages so please check what your child has been set and help them complete it to the best of their ability.
- ✓ Vocabulary learning: even when it is not specified in the planner, do ask what new vocabulary has your child learnt every week and, if possible, test them on how much they remember it.
- ✓ Listening skills: the more your child listens to French at home, the more their listening and pronunciation skills will improve so encourage them to watch movies in the foreign language they are learning or listen to a foreign internet radio. Even if they don't understand a lot at first, they will get better over time! Students could watch French films/TV shows with subtitles to enhance their learning.
- ✓ Reading skills: encourage reading in the foreign language at home! Get them subscribed to the excellent Mary Glasgow Magazines which offer fantastic, age appropriate, news articles, games, interviews etc in the foreign language. Students could also read books in French. Eg Harry Potter etc in French.
- ✓ Grammar: there are hundreds of very good websites that give access to grammar explanations, grammar exercises and games to help your child get their head around that dreaded past tense. All of the recommended ones are in the revision booklet purchased by your child at the start of Year 10.
- ✓ Encourage regular learning and reflection. Students will need to have a good knowledge of vocabulary and grammar in order to achieve the highest grades.



<b>German – Years 9, 10 &amp; 11</b>	Head of Department: Mr L Jones
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**Exam Board and Syllabus Code:** AQA GCSE 8668

### Content

In Years 10 and 11 students are grouped according to ability. We aim to develop the student's skill to use a foreign language for effective communication, to develop a sound basis of skills for work, leisure and further study and to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of Germany and the German speaking world.

There are three strands to the GCSE in French and the following topic areas are covered: Theme 1: Identity and culture; Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest; Theme 3: Current and future study and employment. Emphasis is placed on practical communication skills with both group and pair work continuing to form an integral part of our teaching. Students are encouraged to use the foreign language as much as possible during lessons and are required to demonstrate their ability in the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### Assessment

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- ✓ Listening skills: the more your child listens to German at home, the more their listening and pronunciation skills will improve so encourage them to watch movies in the foreign language they are learning or listen to a foreign internet radio. Even if they don't understand a lot at first, they will get better over time! Students could watch French films/TV shows with subtitles to enhance their learning.
- ✓ Reading skills: encourage reading in the foreign language at home! Get them subscribed to the excellent Mary Glasgow Magazines which offer fantastic, age appropriate, news articles, games, interviews etc in the foreign language. Students could also read books in French. Eg Harry Potter etc in German.
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<b>Spanish – Years 9, 10 &amp; 11</b>	Head of Department: Mr L Jones
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**Exam Board and Syllabus Code:** AQA GCSE 8698

### Content

In Years 10 and 11 students are grouped according to ability. We aim to develop the student's skill to use a foreign language for effective communication, to develop a sound basis of skills for work, leisure and further study and to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of Spain and the Spanish speaking world.

There are three strands to the GCSE in French and the following topic areas are covered: Theme 1: Identity and culture; Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest; Theme 3: Current and future study and employment. Emphasis is placed on practical communication skills with both group and pair work continuing to form an integral part of our teaching. Students are encouraged to use the foreign language as much as possible during lessons and are required to demonstrate their ability in the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### Assessment

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- ✓ Listening skills: the more your child listens to Spanish at home, the more their listening and pronunciation skills will improve so encourage them to watch movies in the foreign language they are learning or listen to a foreign internet radio. Even if they don't understand a lot at first, they will get better over time! Students could watch French films/TV shows with subtitles to enhance their learning.
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