

Welcome to The Modern Languages Department

The ability to use languages at work is increasingly required by employers and language skills are becoming an essential part of life in the global marketplace. Not only that, they can be a fun and highly rewarding area of study. Languages are at the centre of the curriculum at Reepham High School and College and the work of the department is a key aspect of our International Schools Status.

All teachers in the department are Modern Languages specialists with degree-level studies in their teaching languages:

- Mr J Hayward (Head of Department; Spanish / French)
- Ms B Pelaz (Second in Department; Spanish / French)
- Mlle M Teillet (French / Spanish)
- Miss I Delpy (French / Spanish)
- Mrs R Kennelly (French)
- Miss T Li (Mandarin Chinese)

We also regularly work with teacher training providers such as the UEA PGCE programme and Schools Direct.

Key Stage Three (Years 7, 8 and 9)

We recognise that pupils have very different experiences of studying modern foreign languages at primary school and so we assume very little prior knowledge of French or Spanish on joining the school in Year 7. However, we carry out a simple assessment in the first week of term which allows us to set more challenging targets for students who understand a significant amount of one or both languages.

Pupils are taught in tutor groups throughout Year 7. Pupils have three one hour lessons per fortnight of French and three one hour lessons per fortnight of Spanish in Year 7. A small number of students may be from one of the languages in order to take on additional Literacy work.

Following a series of assessments at the end Year 7 we set students according to their progress in both languages. Those students placed in a top set at the beginning of Year 8 continue to study both French and Spanish throughout Years 8 and 9, while other students continue to study their stronger language only.

Key Stage Four (Years 10 and 11)

French and Spanish are popular GCSE options. We follow the Edexcel course. There are normally two GCSE classes in each language per year group. Pupils have four hours of lessons per fortnight in Year 10 and five in Year 11. A number of students each year take both French and Spanish to GCSE level.

Key Stage Five (Years 12 and 13)

We have run classes in A level French and Spanish every year since the College opened in 2009. Up to ten hours of teaching are offered per class per fortnight. Many of our A level students have gone on to study Modern Languages and Linguistics at university level as both single and joint honours, and many have taken Years Abroad at schools and universities in France, Spain, Mexico and elsewhere. A number have completed gap years in volunteering projects in Central and South America before commencing university study.

We use the Eduqas exam board for both languages and study a range of films and literary works as part of the syllabus.

Mandarin Chinese

Reepham High School and College shares a link with the Shenzhen Education Bureau in China and now offers Mandarin Chinese as a GCSE option.

Pupils in top set for Modern Languages in Year 9 are offered the chance to learn Mandarin as an additional option and many choose to continue their study of the language to GCSE level throughout Years 10 and 11. Year 12s may also choose GCSE Mandarin as an extension option alongside their A level study.

Accommodation and Resources

The Modern Languages department is based in a new, purpose-built classroom block. A level lessons are taught in the main college building.

Each room has a computer-linked projector and interactive whiteboard. There is a tablet trolley for shared use within the department.

The department is well resourced with Expo textbooks for Key Stage 3 French, ¡Mira! for KS3 Spanish and Studio / ¡Viva! for KS4.

We subscribe to www.linguascope.com and other language websites for class and individual use.

Extracurricular Activities and Trips

In the Modern Languages Department, we realise that the best way to practise a language is to do so abroad. To this end, members of the department arrange and run up to four annual trips.

Year 7 Curriculum Enhancement Week trip to Normandy: we typically take around 40 pupils for four nights in July. We stay at Château de la Bourdonnière near Avranches and pupils enjoy a number of activities e.g. climbing, bread making and an assault course with all instruction in French.

Year 10 / 12 / 13 Spanish exchange trip to Segovia: We normally take 18-25 pupils for seven nights in February or April, staying with host families, and the Spanish group visits the Reepham area in June. Trips include Madrid, Salamanca and El Escorial.

Year 10 / 12/ 13 French exchange trip to Niort: We normally take 18-25 pupils for seven nights in February or April, staying with host families, and the French group comes to visit in November, January or March. Trips include La Rochelle and the Futuroscope theme park.

Year 12 / 13 French exchange trip to Sélestat: we occasionally run an additional French exchange trip for Year 12 and 13 students. They stay with host families for 4-5 nights and the French students come back to England at mutually convenient times depending upon exam dates.

Mr J Hayward
Head of MFL