

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)
- Miss I Delphy (French / Spanish)
- Mrs R Kennelly (French / Spanish)
- Mlle M Teillet (French / Spanish)

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.

There are six mixed ability sets at the beginning of Year 7. A small number of students are withdrawn from one of the languages in order to take on additional Literacy work. Pupils have three one hour lessons in each language per fortnight in Year 7.

After Christmas in Year 7 we set students according to their progress in both languages. These sets are checked following further testing in June of Year 7.

Those students in top set at the beginning of Year 8 continue to study both languages throughout Years 8 and 9, while others 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.

Key Stage Five (Years 12 and 13)

We have run classes in AS and A2 French and Spanish every year since the College opened in 2009. There are up to nine hours of teaching per class per fortnight, depending upon class sizes. 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 a number have taken Years Abroad at schools and universities in France, Spain and Mexico.

We use the WJEC exam board for both languages and study a range of authentic films and literature as part of the A2 syllabus.

Accommodation and Resources

The Modern Languages department is situated on the main school corridor. A level lessons are taught in the main college building.

Each room has a computer-linked projector, some have interactive whiteboards and each room its own computer for teacher use.

Laptop trolleys and other ICT resources can also be booked for use.

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

Years 10 and 11 use the Edexcel GCSE French and Spanish textbooks.

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 learn a language is to learn it abroad. To this end, members of the department arrange and run up to four competitively priced annual trips.

Year 7 trip to Normandy during Curriculum Enhancement Week in July: we typically take 40-55 pupils for four nights. We stay at Château de la Bourdonnière near Avranches and pupils receive instruction in a number of activities e.g. climbing, bread making and an assault course – all in French!

Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form exchange trip to Segovia in central Spain. We normally take 20-30 pupils for seven nights in February or April, staying with host families, and the Spanish group comes to stay in June. Trips include Madrid, Salamanca and El Escorial. Our partner school's English department's website: <http://ingles-mariamoliner.hdqsg.net/reinounido.htm>

Year 10 and Sixth Form visit to Niort, near La Rochelle on the Atlantic coast of France. 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, the Futuroscope theme park and the Marais Poitevin.

A further French Exchange for unaccompanied Sixth Formers to Sélestat in Alsace, near the German border. Year 12 and 13 students stay with host families for 4-5 nights and the French students come back to England at mutually convenient times depending upon exam dates. This normally provides a welcome boost before AS and A2 oral exams in March/April.

We also realise that it is important to promote the value of languages early – and to show that not only Languages teachers use them! We arrange an annual “Impact Day” for Year 7

students in June or July, with a “continental” (French/Spanish) breakfast, language taster sessions and coaching in a popular European sport – all with the help of visitors and colleagues from outside the department.

We are developing close links with the LCS (Language and Communication Studies) Department at the UEA and the MML department at Cambridge University. We regularly invite Gifted and Talented students at all key stages to take part in workshops and seminars and we regularly take College students to the UEA Cine-Club to watch films in the languages they study: or encourage students to attend in their own time!

Naturally, we run extra help sessions for Year 10 and 11 students before GCSE exams / controlled assessments and for AS/A2 students in the run up to their exams.

Mr J Hayward
Head of MFL