

Academic Requirements

GCSE grade B, A or A*. Candidates should be genuinely interested in the target language country, have an enthusiasm for written and spoken languages as a means of communication, and an understanding of basic grammar structures in English as well as the foreign language. Although a stay in the country is not compulsory, the stress on fluency makes it highly desirable.

Course Specification: OCR French (H075/H475), German (H076/H476), Spanish (H077/H477)

There is ongoing development of the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, based on the following subject areas:

AS Units

Aspects of daily life sub-topics

- The family
- Food, drink, health, obsessions and addictions
- Transport

Leisure and entertainment sub-topics

- Sport
- Tourism and related themes
- Leisure activities

Communication and media sub-topics

- Communication technology
- Media

Education and training sub-topics

- School and school life
- Work and training

A2 Units

Social Issues

- Urban and rural life
- Housing problems
- Social exclusion
- Employment and unemployment
- Immigration
- The role of women
- Equality and minority groups
- Religion and belief

The Environment

- The individual in his/her surroundings
- Pollution
- Conservation

Education

- Education systems and types of school
- Patterns of curriculum
- Relationship between education and training
- Further and higher education

Law and order

- The role of the police
- Patterns of crime
- Public protests and demonstrations
- Juvenile delinquency

Politics

- French: aspects of France and the French-speaking world
- German: aspects of Germany and the German-speaking world
- Spanish: aspects of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world

Technological advances

- Medical advances
- Technological advances

Human interest news items

There is also considerable emphasis on an awareness of grammatical accuracy at a more sophisticated level than GCSE, and the ability to transfer parts of a text in English into the target language and vice versa. At A2 the course also may involve the study of a literary text as a coursework option. The use of dictionaries is not allowed in examinations at either level.

Why Modern Languages?

It is impossible to over-estimate the value of exploring another country's language and culture, both for one's own satisfaction and for the opportunity it provides to communicate with others. It also brings new insights into our own language and culture. Sixth form study covers a wide range of topical issues set in the context of current affairs.

As links with our European partners are strengthened, and trade and tourism are flourishing with the latter, employers in any field will be seeking recruits with competence in one of the principal European languages. If they do not have another language, UK graduates may find themselves being picked close to last for the multilingual, globally aware, and full integrated touring workforce at home and abroad in the not too distant future.

A Student's Perspective

'Although at first the sheer volume of work was intimidating, the intense study at A level has really brought my language skills up from the relatively basic GCSE level. I am a lot more confident now and have found that not only has my language improved vastly but my knowledge and interest in French culture has developed massively.'

'I have found German in the Sixth Form really interesting. I am so glad I chose it as not only have I improved my fluency in German hugely, I have also learnt valuable speaking skills, how to talk in front of crowds, how other cultures and societies work and have become much more confident writing or presenting myself in formal situations. I have visited Germany often over the last few years and intend to study at a German university after leaving School!'

'I took Spanish AS and found it thoroughly enjoyable; the course is very diverse and you can study the culture of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. At the end, you find that you can express yourself using a wide range of vocabulary and that you can use grammar in a new and exciting way. Even though, at times, the work was challenging I found it really worthwhile and the best part of the course for me was the speaking. Having the opportunity to speak to a native Spanish speaker in the week really helps to improve one's skills immensely.'