



LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Overview



The curriculum of the school reflects the demands of the National Curriculum. It is designed in order to provide all pupils with a broad, balanced education relevant to their needs both now and in the future.

Departmental Overview

The Languages Department is comprised of 3 specialist teachers situated on the top floor of the West building. We have two spacious classrooms, access to our own iPad trolley, plus headsets for listening activities and interactive games. The department also provides pupils with their own access to interactive learning sites for home use, such as Linguascope (Years 7-8) and the AQA Kerboodle site which supports learning through Years 9 – 11.

Departmental Staff

Miss M Templado	Head of Languages
Mrs S Thomas	Teacher of Languages
Mrs K Peacock	Teacher of Languages
Mrs S French	HLTA Languages

Year 7 Spanish (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

Mira 1

Curriculum Overview

In Year 7, pupils in Spanish study 5 modules of work throughout the academic year:

Module 1: Pupils learn to say their name, age, birthday, likes and dislikes. In addition, they learn to talk about classroom items, to say the alphabet and to spell words out loud.

Module 2: Pupils learn how to say what school subjects they study, give their opinions on their school subjects, talk about their school day and describe what they do before and after school, inclusive of the present and past tenses.

Module 3: Pupils learn to talk about their family members, say if they have brothers and sisters and talk about their pets, using colours and making adjectival agreements. They also learn to describe their personal appearance.

Module 4: Pupils learn to say where they live/would like to live in the future, describe their house and bedroom, and say what activities they do in the evenings.

Module 5: Pupils learn how to talk about their free time activities using the present, future and conditional tenses. They learn how to tell the time and can explain what sports and other activities they like/don't like doing.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Pupils are assessed continuously in their foreign-language learning and parents are regularly informed of their son's progress. In Year 7, pupils are taught how to assess their own and other pupils' work to help them become more independent learners. Pupils are assessed in listening, reading and writing and are awarded an overall percentage and current working level. Speaking is informally assessed throughout lessons. By the end of Year 7, pupils will be working between numerical grades 1-3. Pupils are tested at the end of each module of work and they should bring home a review sheet after each test for you to read and comment on. Additionally, four Progress Tasks are marked in detail, highlighting strengths, weaknesses and suggesting ways for pupils to improve.

Homework

- Homework is set each week. The type of homework set varies. In Year 7, homework can be a reading comprehension task, a piece of writing or vocabulary learning. All homework is accessible online.
- **How Parents can help**
 - Check with your son that homework has been completed and is handed in on time.
 - Help him with his learning homework or revision by testing him. Even if you don't understand Spanish, you will be able to work out to what extent your son has tried to learn his words.
 - Provide him with a Spanish dictionary to help with homework – one that is small enough to bring to lessons would be even better.
 - Check that your son is fully equipped for lessons.

Year 8 Spanish (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

Mira 2

Curriculum Overview

In Year 8, pupils in Spanish build on their previous learning experiences and study 6 modules of work throughout the academic year.

Module 1: Pupils learn to talk about their spare time activities using the present and future tenses and give and justify opinions. They also learn to talk about their daily routine, including expressions of time.

Module 2: Pupils learn to talk about places in a town, using the present, future and conditional tenses. They learn to invite out a friend, make excuses and talk about the problems of others.

Module 3: Pupils learn to describe a recent holiday, say how they travelled there and what activities they did. They learn to describe their normal holiday arrangements, their future plans, and they also express opinions using the present, past and future tenses.

Module 4: Pupils learn to talk about mealtimes using the present, past and future tenses, shop for food and order food in a restaurant. They learn how to describe a recent meal and they are able to talk about what they like to eat and drink.

Module 5: Pupils learn to talk about clothes including school uniform, clothing preferences, a future trip to Argentina and what they wore to a recent fancy dress party.

Module 6: Pupils learn to describe a traditional Spanish city in detail, they can describe what can be bought in different types of shops and they learn how to ask for directions. Pupils also learn how to combine the past, present and future tenses when describing a holiday in Barcelona and they learn how to write creatively.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Pupils are assessed continuously in their foreign-language learning and parents are regularly informed of their son's progress. In Year 8, pupils often assess their own work, particularly in speaking and writing, to help them become more independent in their learning. Pupils are formally assessed in listening, reading and writing and are awarded an overall percentage and current working level. Speaking is informally assessed throughout lessons. By the end of Year 8, most pupils will be working between numerical grades 2-4. Pupils are tested at the end of each module of work and they should bring home a review sheet after each test for parents to read and comment on. Additionally four Progress Tasks are marked in detail, highlighting strengths, weaknesses and suggesting ways for pupils to improve.

Homework

Homework is set each week. The type of homework set varies. In Year 8, homework can be a reading comprehension task, a piece of writing or vocabulary-learning. All homework is accessible online.

How Parents can help

- Check with your son that homework has been completed and is handed in on time.
- Help him with his learning homework or revision by testing him. Even if you don't understand Spanish you will be able to work out to what extent your son has tried to learn his words.
- Provide him with a Spanish dictionary to help with homework – one that is small enough to bring to lessons would be even better.
- Check that your son is fully equipped for lessons.

Year 9 Spanish (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA Foundation

Curriculum Overview

In Year 9, pupils follow the AQA GCSE Foundation Course. There are three main 'themes' (topics) covered in the GCSE curriculum. Pupils will cover Theme 1 in Year 9 and the topics included are as follows:

Theme 1:

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals

Examinations/Key Assessments

Exams taken in Year 9 are at the end of each unit (1-4) with particular emphasis placed in the end of Units 2 and 4 assessments as they also assess the earlier units/topics. All assessments include tasks testing pupils in each skill area: listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. Pupils are awarded a mark and numerical grade to reflect their achievement.

Homework

Homework is set weekly and can be in the form of written work (descriptive writing), learning vocabulary, grammar, speaking and translation tasks, and revising for assessments. Listening tasks can also be set as homework through Kerboodle, the Department's online Language area. Some homework tasks, therefore, are paper based whilst other tasks are online. Students have their own passwords to access online homework.

How Parents can help

- Check with your son that homework has been completed and is handed in on time.
- Help your son with his learning homework or revision by testing him. Even if you don't understand Spanish you will be able to work out to what extent your son has tried to learn his words.
- Provide him with a Spanish dictionary.
- Check that your son is fully equipped for lessons.

Year 10/11 Spanish (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA

Curriculum Overview

Taking a GCSE in Spanish will build on the work you have done in Year 7 and 8 and will encourage you to use the language more fluently, with accuracy and with confidence. Students in Year 9 will begin the GCSE course covering Theme 1 and will continue the course in Years 10 and 11 covering the remaining two themes (listed below) and preparing for final exams. The themes are as follows:

1. IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Topic 1: My family and friends and I

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

Topic 3: Free-time activities

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries/communities

2. LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL AREAS OF INTEREST

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

Topic 3: Global issues

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

3. CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post 16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Examinations/Key Assessments

There are examinations in the following four skill areas: Paper 1 Listening Exam 25%

Paper 2 Speaking Exam 25%

Paper 3 Reading Exam 25%

Paper 4 Writing Exam 25%

Homework

Homework will be set weekly and can take the form of reading or listening comprehension work, grammar-related tasks and written work in the target language. The learning of new vocabulary and structures of the language is extremely important at GCSE level. Homework can also be set via the online languages website 'Kerboodle' which enables staff to send students appropriate and personalised tasks.

How Parents can help

To ensure that your son completes homework punctually and to the best of his ability and to help your son with his revision is extremely beneficial to his success. To ensure he comes to lessons fully equipped, plus a Spanish dictionary, together with a GCSE Revision guide, will be useful, especially for home learning.

Year 12/13 Spanish (KS5)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA

Curriculum Overview

The world is getting smaller and with UK businesses dealing primarily with European countries, speaking another language can be a valuable asset. In this course you will develop your linguistic skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also learn about Spanish culture, traditions and society. You will study Spanish media, television, films and advertising and acquire an appreciation for Spanish music, cinema and fashion. Students will also study social issues such as the environment, multicultural society, politics, law and order, and science and technology. Grammar plays a key role in all aspects of study. There is also an opportunity to take part in a work experience visit to Spain!

Examinations/Key Assessments

The AQA A level Spanish course has examinations in all four skill areas:

Paper 1 - Listening, reading and writing (translation) - 50%.

Paper 2 - Writing 20%

Paper 3 - Speaking 30%

Homework

Each student will receive at least one detailed homework task per week. They will vary in structure according to the curriculum covered and to promote skills based learning (i.e. translation, text analysis, grammar exercises and speaking preparation, such as debating). Homework is also set online via Show My Homework.

How Parents can help

Homework tasks will be set via Show My Homework, please encourage your son/daughter to check this website regularly. Please encourage them to immerse themselves in the Spanish language by listening to Spanish broadcasts online and reading authentic material in Spanish, such as newspapers, books etc.