

# Modern Languages

## Overview

At King Charles I School, the Modern Foreign Languages department promotes highly effective language learning across the whole age and ability range. We live in a multicultural world and we believe that it is paramount for students to know more about other languages and cultures in order to stand out from the crowd after their GCSE, but also, to understand better their own language and culture. Since September 2016, languages are now compulsory at GCSE so that every student can have the opportunity to be entered for the Ebacc. Languages students at King Charles I are committed, passionate and hardworking, we led to our best set of results yet, with 91.2% of students achieving A\*-C in French, and 100% of students achieving A\*-C in German.

Since September 2016, all students in Year 7 study German, and sets 1,2 & 3 also study French. All students in Year 8 study French, and sets 1 and 2 have started learning German as well. With regards to Year 9, all students study French and set 1 students have started learning German. Both French and German are offered in Year 10 and 11, as well as at Sixth Form.

We believe that everybody has the potential to learn how to communicate successfully in a modern foreign language. Studying a modern foreign language is more than just learning vocabulary and phrases. It also helps students to develop communication and interpersonal skills, to understand and appreciate foreign cultures and to be better prepared for the demands of the job market. Unemployment figures are amongst the lowest for language graduates and studying a modern foreign language at any level opens the doors to university and career opportunities that otherwise would not be available. Studying a language also complements work done in other subject areas, reinforcing literacy and numeracy skills, and giving students a knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

## KS3 Curriculum

At KS3, students study a variety of topics and vocabulary range, from basic expressions, to more complex sentences structures and grammar. We also offer students opportunities to learn not only about the language, but also about the culture of the countries where the language is spoken. Topics such as greetings, animals, family, food and school are an example of what is studied at KS3. The learning in Year 7 focuses on constructing solid knowledge foundations on which to build over the following years. In Year 9, they are taught the language, or languages, in more depth in order to prepare them for continuing at KS4. Students in Year 7 and 8 receive 3 hours a fortnight per language if studying both French and German, else they receive 6 hours a fortnight of the one language. Students in Year 9 receive 5 hours of languages lessons per fortnight. In order to experience the language first hand, Year 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to go on the Christmas market trip to Cologne, Germany, and Year 9 students can apply to go on the Paris trip.

## KS4 Curriculum

At KS4, students will now be entered for the new GCSE, which will be linear. All exams will take place at the end of year 11 during the GCSE exam period. The programme of study for both French and German focus on three themes which are "Identity and Culture", "Local, National, International and Global areas of interest" and "Current and Future Study and employment". Those three themes are explored in depth, touching subjects such as environmental issues, locally and worldwide, family relationships as well as the pressure and worries of being a teenager, but also holidays, work experience, health and lifestyles or future career plans. Students are also taught in more depth grammar and a variety of tenses to feel more

comfortable with the language and being able to produce both written and spoken work with spontaneity in and outside the classroom. Students receive 5 hours of languages per fortnight.

## **KS5 Curriculum**

At KS5, from September 2016, students will follow the reformed A-Level for languages. Both French and German are offered at KS5 and students will receive 10 hours a fortnight of languages. Students have the opportunity to work with native speakers to further and deepen their speaking skills as well as their understanding of the language. The topics studied at A Level range from social and current trends, political aspects, French speaking society as well as a literary book and a film. Students will also conduct their research project in Year 13 on an area of interest of their choice, either related to a sub-theme studied or an aspect linked to a country where the language studied is spoken.

At KS5, students get a chance to investigate much further the language and culture through different research activities, literature studies or other cultural units. They develop their independence and inquisitive nature every lesson through debates, oral presentations and research activities.

## **SMSC in MFL**

Through learning a modern foreign language, students gain insights into the way of life and the cultural traditions of people in other countries. King Charles I is also part of the twinning association with Husum and a trip to visit our partner school is being organised. This would enhance students' understanding of other cultures and interact with them on foreign land.

## **Spiritual Development in MFL**

Through learning a modern foreign language, students begin to develop knowledge and understanding of religious and secular beliefs in the foreign culture. While this is particularly true at A-Level, Key Stage 3 and 4 students learn about festivals and celebrations (religious and non-religious) in the foreign country as part of the MFL curriculum. Students have opportunity to reflect on and respond to the similarities and differences between traditions in their own country and those of the foreign country.

## **Moral Development in MFL**

A key part of language learning involves the ability to express opinions on a range of topics. Students learn to articulate their own beliefs and to explain these to others. They learn to listen and respond to the views of others, including the opinions and points of view of people living in the foreign culture. They explore and discuss relationships between friends and family members, as well as between people from different cultures. As their language skills develop, students begin to debate and discuss issues in more depth. The curriculum covers topics such as environmental, social and lifestyle issues.

## **Social Development in MFL**

Students' social skills are developed within the classroom through group activities, the majority of which require students to communicate with each other in a foreign language. Students develop skills in speaking and listening to the language, along with reading and writing. When students have opportunity to work with a native speaker of the language, they not only need to communicate with them but also develop an understanding and empathy for potential differences between their two cultures. When students participate in a trip abroad, their social development and inter-personal skills are enhanced even further.

## **Cultural Development in MFL**

In MFL lessons, students have frequent opportunities to learn about aspects of culture in French and German speaking countries; for example, the school system, typical food and leisure interests. Students are able to develop an understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures,

which may benefit their wider understanding of their own. MFL lessons also provide opportunities for students to reflect on culture differences between their own country and the foreign country. Interaction with native speakers also helps to boost students' knowledge and understanding of a culture different from their own and helps to challenge stereotypes. Students are able to appreciate the differences and the shared experiences between people living in different countries. This will equip students well for later life when they may work or travel abroad.