



Curriculum Newsletter

MODERN LANGUAGES

Learning a language broadens horizons, instils confidence, and deepens the understanding of the world in which we currently live. The benefits of being able to communicate in a second language are profound, opening minds to different cultures and customs, developing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills as well as discovering more about the way your own language works.

The Modern Foreign Languages department at Hermitage Academy utilises these core beliefs to develop curious and confident language learners of the future who will have the skills and capacity to master whichever language they may choose.

Curriculum intent

At Hermitage Academy, students are afforded the opportunity to study both French and Spanish and they study a curriculum that is rich in both language and culture. Through the study of languages, students can see the world from a different viewpoint and embrace the cultures and customs of French and Spanish-speaking nations. Furthermore, students can gain a greater understanding into their own language by comparing patterns across different languages.

In addition to our aim of creating independent, motivated language learners, MFL also contributes to the development of cultural capital in a variety of ways every lesson. Language and culture are explored every lesson, covering a variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.

In July 2023 students in Y8 and Y9 will be afforded the opportunity to attend a trip to Cantabria in Northern Spain. These highly popular cultural visits aim to 'put into practice' the skills learnt within the classroom and students are

encouraged to speak in the target language throughout the visit. This is a real opportunity to bring the subject to life for our learners. For those unable to travel, we bring the world to our classroom by celebrating festivals, food tasting, exposure to the latest songs, cultural anthems, clips from French and Spanish news and interviews and authentic texts from French and Spanish literature, newspapers and magazines. All students have the opportunity to develop conversational language skills and the necessary key language to successfully complete daily tasks in French or Spanish-speaking countries such as booking a table in a restaurant, hotel reservations, asking for directions etc.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 students will begin learning French in Y7 and pick up Spanish as an additional language in Y8. They will acquire 4 key skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking and will study a range of grammar points including the past, present and future tenses. In addition, they will focus on the following topics:

French

- **Y7:** All about myself, my family, food and drink, my town and free-time activities.
- **Y8:** Sports and hobbies, healthy eating, holidays and the world of media.
- **Y9:** Relationships with family, holiday plans, jobs and careers, differences between France and the UK, home and home and traditions and festivals.

Spanish

- **Y8:** Myself and my family, my city, holidays, food and drink and free-time activities.

- **Y9:** Relationships with family, healthy eating, jobs and careers, differences between Spain and the UK, house and home and traditions and festivals.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Key Stage 4 students follow the AQA exam specification for French and Spanish. They will be assessed equally across 4 skills at the end of Y11: listening, reading, writing and speaking. In Y10 and Y11 they will cover a range of grammar points and study the following themes and topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Topic 1: Me, my family and friends
- Topic 2: Technology in everyday life
- Topic 3: Free-time activities
- Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French/Spanish-speaking countries/communities

Theme 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

Theme 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

Key Stage 5 Languages (Spanish and French)

At Key Stage 5, students follow the AQA exam specification for French and Spanish which builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. The curriculum focuses on French/Spanish speaking society and how it has been formed both socially and culturally. Students also have the opportunity to link this

knowledge to the study of a film and a literary text. In Y12 and Y13 the following content will be covered:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary text and film

Students sit the following exams at the end of Y13:

- Paper 1 Listening, reading, and writing (50%)
- Paper 2 Writing (20%)
- Paper 3 Speaking (30%).

Studying languages can open doors ...

Studying a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE and A-level fosters a number of transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. Languages are desirable in almost any career, but particularly in businesses that work on an international level. If you choose to study a language at university, many courses offer a year studying or working abroad. This allows students not only to perfect their language skills, but also immerse themselves in the culture and customs of a different country. Modern foreign language graduates have gone on to pursue careers in areas such as journalism, broadcasting, translation, education and international aid work.