

Course Information – MFL

Modern Foreign Languages - French, German, Spanish

The MFL GCSE course covers a range of thematic contexts that are designed to be both useful and interesting to students. Throughout the course, in the language chosen, students will cover the six thematic contexts of My Personal World, Lifestyle and Well-being, My Neighbourhood, Media and Technology, Studying and My Future and also Travel and Tourism, allowing students to communicate across a variety of topics that are relevant to them.

Why Study Foreign Languages at GCSE

Languages are useful in a great variety of fields, whether in the world of work or in leisure, such as on holiday. Learning a language is a really useful way to understand the culture of another country, as well as positively enhancing future travel abroad. The MFL course will also help students to further develop their English skills, by allowing a greater insight into how languages work and function. Most Universities expect students to have studied a language to GCSE level, as it shows a good level of academic ability.

How Will I be Assessed?

During the course, students will be assessed in the 4 key skills of Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking. The Reading and Listening components (both weighted at 25% of the overall GCSE grade) are in the form of an end of course paper. The reading paper will contain a translation into English and the listening paper will contain a dictation task. The Speaking element (25% of the overall grade) will be assessed at the end of the course. Students will be expected to participate in 3 assessment types (Read Aloud, Role Play and Picture task with conversation) across the topics outlined above. The Written assessment (25% of the GCSE grade), as with the other 3 elements, is conducted at the end of the course. Students will have to complete a variety of written tasks including 2 open response questions and a translation into the foreign language.

What I Need to Know

Students are able to be entered for either Higher or Foundation level. The grade given will be 9-1 (Higher tier allows access to grades 9-3, Foundation tier allows access to grades 5-1). Students that wish to choose a language must have studied the desired language for a minimum of two years at school.

Future Opportunities

Following the completion of the GCSE course in MFL, students will be able to continue studying the language at AS/A2 level. Students will also have acquired a range of skills that really complement many other areas of study.

Career Prospects

Students that have achieved a GCSE in a Modern Foreign language are in a good position to follow a variety of career paths, such as media, tourism, PR, business, finance, commerce and the public sector (for the government or the EU). Language students can also go on to work in teaching, the export/import industry, translating or interpreting, the arts and technology sector or the motor industry. Languages are also a very useful addition to any set of qualifications and can make a positive impression when applying for a vast number of jobs.