

Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages

Introduction

During the process of learning a language, many things happen. The student becomes more confident, fluent and eloquent in the language he is learning. Simultaneously, he will be finding out about the people, country, culture and history of the countries in which the language is spoken. He will also become more confident, fluent and eloquent in his own language and will inevitably be drawn to think about his own country and culture and its place in the world. It is for these reasons that the study of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is at the core of The John Lyon School curriculum.

General information about the Modern Languages Faculty

All lessons for MFL are taught in dedicated classrooms furnished with interactive whiteboards and modern audio visual equipment. In addition, all classes have regular access to the Virtual Language Laboratory. As a Faculty we subscribe to many interactive language teaching website and have language teaching software available to pupils on the school Intranet. We have a satellite dish for live European television broadcasts and we employ Foreign Language Assistants to assist the oral skills of our older pupils.

It is policy within the Faculty to recognise the equal importance of the four language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) in our approach to teaching and learning. Pupils are encouraged to read for pleasure in the foreign language through the many magazines and publications on offer in the school Learning Resource Centre and through subscriptions to graded reading and listening materials.

Educational trips and visits to Europe are encouraged at various stages of the curriculum, for example the Year 7 trip to Northern France, work experience in Europe and the Sixth Form trip to Berlin.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9)

All pupils study French in Years 7 – 9. At the start of Year 9 an Accelerated Set is created with the aim of stretching and stimulating the minds of the more gifted linguists. In addition to French, Year 9 pupils are required to study either German or Spanish.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 – 11)

All pupils must take at least one GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language. Many pupils will in fact take two – French and the language they began in Year 9 (German or Spanish). While it is possible to continue only with the “new” language started in Year 9, a high level of aptitude and commitment would need to be shown in this language.

AS and A Level

French, German and Spanish are offered as A Level subjects. Students at this level have extensive access to the Virtual Language Laboratory and are required to attend extra-curricular sessions with our dedicated Foreign Language Assistants. A Level students are encouraged to undertake a period

of work experience in the target language country. A high degree of emphasis is placed on an increased accuracy in the grammatical and oral skills shown by the students in the Sixth Form. Our aim is to produce confident and highly competent linguists who can go on to study their chosen language, or languages, at the top universities.