



SOLIHULL

The Modern Foreign Languages Department

The Department is one of the largest in the School and is currently staffed by thirteen colleagues, including teachers and language assistants. Spanish is currently part of the core curriculum in the Lower School and French and German are offered as options from Year 8. From September 2024, French and Spanish will be offered as options for pupils in Year 7 (Third Form), with German being offered to pupils in the Shell Form (Year 8.)

All pupils study at least one of French, German or Spanish to GCSE; many pupils choose to take study two languages and a small number study three to GCSE level. This is also an option at A Level.

At A Level we use the AQA examining board and at GCSE AQA is also used in all three languages. In all three of our core languages, we have a subscription to Kerboodle's suite of paper-based and electronic resources, but we do also make extensive and creative use of a whole series of other teaching tools and are always keen to make use of the most up to date pedagogical techniques.

The Department encourages visits and exchanges. In Spanish, Year 9 pupils have the opportunity to take part in our Spanish Exchange programme with our partner school in Alicante. Older students also have the chance to go to Spain on a study visit to Andalucía. In addition, students of Spanish can host visiting pupils from Argentina and can visit this country in the Summer. The Department also facilitates opportunities to take part in gap experiences for senior pupils.

In French, there is a trip to a chateau in northern France for all pupils and a study visit to Paris, whereas in German, there is an exchange for Year 9 to Hofheim (Main-Taunus Kreis) and also a trip to Berlin, a day spent at the Goethe-Institut in London and for the Shells, there is a trip to the Birmingham German Christmas market.

We host plays acted in our three languages, host a major event in celebration of European Day of Languages and look for different ways to penetrate all areas of school life, including elements of CLILL techniques are other cross-curricular work. Our Solihull Young Linguists group also participate in the UKLO Linguistics Olympiad, and our Year 6,7 and 9 pupils have recently been very successful in the various National MFL Spelling and Translation Bee competitions organised by Routes into languages.