



**ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
**MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT**  
**FRENCH, GERMAN & SPANISH**



**MEET THE DEPARTMENT:**

Miss Auzinger – Head of German

Miss Chong – Head of French

Mrs Herring – Teacher of French and Spanish

Mrs Landa Garrido - Teacher of Spanish and German

Mrs Scott – Head of Spanish and Teacher of French

Miss Tester - Teacher of French and German

**OUR VISION:**

Our vision is to develop a life-long love of language learning in our pupils; to increase their cultural awareness and to ensure that everyone is able to reach his/her full potential.

The department is a forward-thinking team of six specialist language teachers, each of whom teaches across the range of year groups and abilities. We continually strive to improve pupil performance in a spirit of collaboration. The three Subject Leaders have overall responsibility for their language. In particular, they are responsible for monitoring the department's progress and development and for all aspects of the curriculum.

**HOW THE MFL CURRICULUM IS ORGANISED AND TAUGHT:**

We are an inclusive department where nearly all pupils in Years 7 – 9 learn a language. At present, around 65% of the cohort in Years 10 and 11 learn a language to GCSE. Lessons contain a variety of listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks and we strive to maximise the benefits of technology in order to further enthuse and support pupils' progress.

We offer our pupils a clear curriculum journey where they know more, can do more and remember more at the various endpoints. Our Schemes of Work are based on a topical approach; grammar, phonics and vocabulary underpin their language journeys. A 'hooking the new to the old' strategy is embedded in our SoW through a spiral curriculum where mastery is the ultimate goal.

Homework is set regularly as we believe that it adds to the depth of understanding and promotes independence. Through our own department research on metacognition and self-regulation we are working towards encouraging pupils to be more aware of how they learn and why languages are the gateway to cultural capital.



Our department prides itself on using and evaluating the latest research to inform our teaching pedagogy and to adapt Schemes of Work accordingly. This, in turn, enables us to share best practice and ensures that our pupils receive the highest quality learning experience.

### Year 7:

Currently on entering Year 7, all pupils learn French, German and Spanish for a short carousel before expressing their language preference. Once decided which language they are studying, they continue with this language all the way through to Year 11. Pupils have 2 x 50 minute lessons per week and are set one homework task weekly.

### Year 8:

All pupils learn one language – French, German or Spanish – for 3 x 50 minute lessons per week. Pupils are set two homework tasks a week which cover a variety of skills.

### Year 9:

All pupils in Year 9 continue to learn either French, German or Spanish for 3 x 50 minute lessons per week and are set two homework tasks weekly which cover a variety of skills. The focus in Year 9 is on mastery of grammar and developing the necessary skills to succeed at GCSE.

### Year 10 and Year 11:

Pupils study for the AQA GCSE examination at the end of Year 11 and have 4 x 50 minute lessons per week. The focus in lessons is on mastery of grammar and key skills which will ensure that they learn how to communicate accurately using increasingly more complex and authentic language. We are committed to supporting and motivating all learners to ensure they achieve the best possible GCSE grades.

### **OUR GCSE RESULTS:**

We are delighted that we have one of the highest EBACC point scores and EBACC entries in the country (currently roughly double the national average) and continue to educate ourselves on the most effective teaching strategies to engage more SEND and PP pupils.

#### Teacher Assessed Grades for 2021:

French: 98% 4 – 9; 85% 5 – 9; **33% 7 – 9**

German: 100% 4 – 9; 100% 5 – 9; **32.4% 7 – 9**

Spanish: 94% 4 – 9; 88% 5 – 9; **61% 7 – 9**

#### Teacher Assessed Grades for 2020:

French: 94% 4 – 9; 81% 5 – 9; **32% 7 – 9**

German: 100% 4 – 9; 90.6% 5 – 9; **31.2% 7 – 9**

Spanish: 95% 4 – 9; 83% 5 – 9; **39% 7 – 9**

#### GCSE Exam results for 2019:

French: 95.3% 4 – 9; 84% 5 – 9; **32% 7 – 9**

German: 90.5% 4 – 9; 64.3% 5 – 9; **11.9% 7 – 9**

Spanish: (the first GCSE exam cohort at St Richard's) 86.4% 4 – 9; 64.8% 5 – 9; **37.8% 7 – 9**



We also enter pupils with a home language other than English for a GCSE in their mother tongue whenever possible, usually in Year 9 or 10.

## **RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR TEACHING AND PUPILS' LEARNING:**

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are employed which include use of digital packages, textbooks (including Expo and Allez for French, Echo and Stimmt for German and Mira and Viva for Spanish), target-language dictionaries, two MFL dedicated suites of chromebooks as well as an interactive whiteboard and a visualiser in each classroom.

We are fortunate to have a wide selection of additional resources at our disposal including:

- Kerboodle website to access the AQA GCSE and KS3 Allez digital textbooks
- Activeteach to access the Pearson resources
- Mary Glasgow subscription for all three languages
- This is language, teachit and sentencebuilders.com subscription for all three languages
- ZigZag Resources for all three languages
- a selection of French, German and Spanish DVDs, parallel readers and books

## **TRIPS:**

We have a programme of annual trips which includes the following:

- A residential trip to the German Christmas Market in Aachen for Year 8 pupils
- A residential trip to northern France for Year 8 and 9 pupils
- A residential trip to Spain for Year 9 pupils



## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

- Our French, German and Spanish clubs take place once a week at lunchtime. To promote leadership skills, these are often run by Year 10 pupils. The clubs are open to everyone who would like to practise their language skills with fun games and activities.
- We also offer a Mandarin programme of weekly live lessons led by a China-based teacher that runs throughout the academic year. Every lesson involves a 25 minute live and interactive session. Pupils can then extend what they have learnt each week by accessing lesson follow-up materials. The aim of the programme is to offer our pupils the opportunity to experience an insight into another language and culture and to gain an introduction to a language and culture whose significance to the future economy of our world today is rapidly increasing.
- The European Day of Languages is celebrated annually when activities are included in lessons to raise awareness of the importance of learning languages as a life skill.
- Pupils also experience a live theatre performance per language in school staged by a company of native speakers.



*We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative individual who can contribute to our already engaging and inspiring team. To find out more about us and to see the whole year in action, please look at the MFL pages on the St. Richard's website and our newsletter items.*