



## **Modern Foreign Languages Department**

The department occupies a suite of 7 classrooms with the majority of teachers having their own classroom. Each classroom is equipped with state of the art Smartboards linked to desktop computers linked to a classroom speaker system. There is also a standard whiteboard in each room. The department has a set of portable netbooks available to staff on a booking basis.

There are currently 6 full-time teachers, two Assistant Headteachers, and two part-time teachers in the MFL team. We employ a Spanish-speaking and a French language assistant who work predominantly with A-level students, although KS4 students also have the opportunity to work with them. The team are all enthusiastic teachers who aim to give their students the best possible experience in Language learning.



MFL  
Department

Modern Foreign Languages is a thriving and successful department:-

- Achievement is strong at all key stages with increasing uptake.
- Key Stage 3 results are strong too, with very able cohorts coming through.
- Leadership, teaching and the climate for learning in MFL are all strong.

St Mary's views Language Learning as an integral part of our community. We firmly believe that all students can have a very worthwhile experience studying Languages and we want as many students as possible to continue to study Languages beyond KS3. Over the last 2-3 years, the school has bucked the trend in terms of declining numbers in Languages by introducing a second Language, and most KS3 students now study both Spanish and French. We have also increased our A level offer – we currently offer Spanish, French and Russian.

In addition, we also offer certification for a wide range of other Languages for students who are native speakers.

Pupils are set according to ability from Years 7-11. In Years 7 and 8, students receive 3 hours of lessons in each language per 2-week cycle. In Year 9, students have 2 hours of language per week and in Key Stage 4, they receive the equivalent of 5 hours per 2-week cycle. In Key Stage 5, students have 9/10 hours of teaching time.

Schemes of work for all Key Stages are uniformly followed and resources are shared throughout the department. Assessment for Learning, thinking skills and active teaching methods play a vital role in the department's practice and staff work hard to ensure pupils make good progress. Teachers make good use of the data available and use this to inform teaching across all Key Stages.

The table below shows the text books available in the department, these are mainly used to support the development of listening and reading and are supplemented heavily by the Department's own resources.

	<b>French</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
<b>KS3 – Years 7 &amp; 8</b>	Studio Accès Studio 1	Asi 1
<b>KS4 – Years 9, 10 &amp; 11</b>	Studio for GCSE	Viva for GCSE
<b>KS5</b>	AQA AS and A Level text book	AQA AS and A Level text book

Our curriculum is therefore already vibrant. This year we have run popular courses in Russian and Mandarin as part of our enrichment activities, and we intend to extend this to Mandarin and Arabic. Students also have the opportunity to take part in organised activities such as the International Festival of Languages at Newcastle University, cinema days, the Year 7 Spelling Bee and lectures.

As part of our regeneration of Languages at St Mary's, we have been working with Language Ambassadors from Newcastle University, who have helped us to publicise the importance of Languages. We also offer trips abroad to both France and Spain. The French trip is currently to Mayenne in the West of Normandy and the Spanish trip is to Barcelona. We have a partner school near Paris, Saint Laurent, and have begun a very successful exchange with this school.

We are totally committed to the continued expansion of Languages at St Mary's, as part of a rounded curriculum. This is an exciting time for a dedicated linguist to join this outstanding school.