**Prince William School**

**Modern Foreign Languages Department**

**Departmental Ethos**

Our mission, as teachers of Modern Foreign Languages, is to arm our students with the confidence and skills to use their linguistic skills and knowledge outside of the classroom, both at home and abroad. We are passionate about the languages we teach and the countries in which those languages are spoken. We keep up-to-date with what is going on there linguistically, culturally and politically, and always strive to keep the languages real and relevant for our students in the classroom.

We aim to develop the skills and knowledge of each individual student in an environment in which they can achieve their full potential. We endeavour to create an atmosphere that is open, encouraging and inclusive.

**Curriculum**

In KS3 all students are taught either French or Spanish, based on the Dynamo course for French and İViva! for Spanish. Through an engaging curriculum, with topics relevant to their world, students master the basics of pronunciation in their language of study and develop their skills at listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation into and out of their target language. We endeavour to make our KS3 curriculum inclusive for students of all abilities and interests and offer a wide range of activities in our lessons, ranging from study of grammar and vocabulary to the use of ICT and online platforms, as well as developing their cultural knowledge. We seek to develop them into well-rounded and curious learners moving forward into KS4 and KS5.

KS4 students sitting the 2016 GCSE follow the AQA specification. Teaching is increasingly differentiated for progress for both Higher and Foundation tier students, allowing them to learn and achieve at their own pace and level. We work from the Studio or Viva courses, with Spanish teaching supplemented by a range of online materials, grammar and translation books and Target 5 and 9 for written and reading work. We encourage greater independence in language learning and we endeavour to provide students with the basis for long-term learning that could stretch well beyond their examinations. The intention is that students sitting the 2024 GCSE specification will study with Edexcel.

At KS5 students follow the Edexcel A-level specification, providing for good continuity from GCSE. The core textbook is Hodder Dynamic Learning A-level French or Spanish, though this is heavily supplemented by staff with their own and various other online resources, and students enjoy exploring their own area of interest for their Individual Research Project. Choices of set texts and films are made in collaboration with the students but recent works studied have included Au revoir les enfants and No et moi for French and El laberinto del fauno and Crónica de una muerte anunciada for Spanish. We have good relations with the languages department at Oundle School and A-level students have been invited to talks and to practise their speaking with the FLAs there.

The MFL team are committed to sharing teaching resources and all schemes of work for our curriculum are well resourced on our school platform.

Overall in the MFL Department, we strive to develop a love of foreign languages and culture and aim to develop both linguistic skills in the target language as well as highly sought-after employability skills. We therefore follow schemes of work that are skills-based and differentiated and aim to develop students who have confidence in their own abilities, are independent learners and who enjoy their language learning experience with us.

**Accommodation**

The MFL Department is co-located in a block with the English Department. There are three dedicated MFL classrooms, all of which have an interactive board. The block has a breakout area with computers for students to use, and a separate staff room for each of the English and MFL teams.

**Staffing**

Vacancy Head of Department

Rebecca Kiel Second in Department

Margaux Ascaso Teacher of French and Spanish

**GCSE exam results 2023**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Number of entries** | **% 7+** | **% 4+** |
| **PWS** | **National** | **PWS** | **National** |
| **French** | 24 | 33 | 25.9 | 83 | 70.5 |
| **Spanish** | 20 | 35 | 26.1 | 75 | 69.2 |