

## MFL DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

### **MFL Staff**

We have an experienced and dedicated team of MFL staff comprising:

Mrs S Dunn: Head of Department (0.8)

Mrs J Briden: Deputy Head of MFL with responsibility for French (Head of Department 0.2)

Mrs K Baker: Teacher of French and German / Assistant Head of MFL

Mrs E Loverock: Teacher of German and French

Ms S Page: Teacher of German and French

Mrs R Taylor: Teacher of French

Mrs S Hollyhead: Teacher of German and French

Miss K Hinz: Teacher of French

### **ROOMING**

There are 7 MFL teaching rooms including 1 computer room which we use on a rotation basis. All rooms are equipped with a PC, audio speakers and interactive whiteboards.

### **CURRICULUM**

We truly believe that language learning is a *“liberation from insularity in today’s global society”*. Through the study of one romance and one Germanic language, students gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between not only the languages themselves, but also the cultures of the countries in which they are spoken.

We feel it is important that our students value any prior knowledge and skills from their life experiences as well as from any formal learning and we highlight these from our very first transition lessons. We teach students the skills they need to acquire new vocabulary, grammar and phonics so that they become increasingly independent as they move from novice towards expert linguists.

We provide all students with bespoke *“Passbooks”* in which the curriculum is broken down into manageable chunks of learning. They also enable students to see their progression throughout each unit, year and key stage. In lessons we model differentiated exemplar work, provide scaffolds to support independent practice and encourage students to share success and share their mistakes. Regular retrieval practice is essential for successful language learning and our spiral curriculum ensures that current and previous learning is regularly revisited and tested. Our curriculum is ambitious and in order to develop confidence in our learners and the homework we set helps to embed learning in the long-term memory. We encourage the *‘little and often’* approach and students can use online courses and apps outside of the classroom.

### **Years 7 and 8**

Languages are a part of the National Curriculum in England up to the age of 14 and all students in years 7 and 8 study both French and German. As students will have had varied experiences of MFL learning prior to starting in year 7, we encourage them to share these experiences so that we can best accommodate all learners’ needs.

Students have 6 language lessons per fortnight: 3 in French and 3 in German. We fully support students in acquiring key language learning skills from their first few lessons and our co-ordinated approach across French and German means that students make rapid progress with their language learning. In French, the year 7 and 8 curriculum is based around ‘Allez’ and in German our core resource is ‘Stimmt’.

At the end of year 8, we support students to make decisions on which language to continue into year 9.

### **Year 9**

In year 9, all students begin the AQA GCSE course in either French or German, building carefully on the skills acquired in years 7 and 8 so that they are ready for the rigours of the GCSE course.

### **Years 10 and 11**

Demand from employers for MFL skills is increasing and we are delighted to be one of the very few Staffordshire schools to offer both French and German at GCSE. In line with governmental requirements, the majority (around 70% each year) of our students continue with their chosen language at GCSE.

### **Years 12 and 13**

Both French and German are offered at A-level. We currently have 10 students studying French in year 12 including some students from a local consortium school. Unfortunately, due to lower numbers for German, we do not currently have an A-level class but we are working hard to encourage uptake in the future.

### **Trips**

Each year we aim to run either a French or German trip for year 9 students. We also offer opportunities for students to engage with Routes into Languages and BLC courses for both French and German.