

## French and Spanish GCSEs (Optional)

### Board: AQA Course

#### Content

Communication skills are an essential part of being a European and World Citizen in the 21st century. Language skills significantly improve your career opportunities and open up a whole new world. We will develop your ability to communicate effectively in the foreign language, be it for work, leisure or tourism. You have regular access to foreign language assistants to help you improve your spoken proficiency and understanding of the language.

Where possible you will be able to enhance your skills with authentic practice of the language, such as trips abroad and letter exchanges. For example, this academic year KS4 students have visited Málaga, Spain. You can choose French or Spanish, (or a combination) as your GCSE language, and if you're prepared to work hard, you'll have no difficulty reaching a high standard of proficiency.

To study any Language in the Sixth Form, the relevant GCSE in that language must have been studied and a grade 6 obtained in the final GCSE exam. Please bear in mind that some Universities now ask for a GCSE language as an entry requirement.

#### Skills

Students will practise all four key skills throughout the course and will develop their confidence in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students are expected to continue to develop these skills outside the classroom using a variety of interactive activities and using modern technology. Students will, of course, gain knowledge of the grammatical aspects of the language and apply these in their work. Students will be expected to show that they can translate from the target language and into the target language.

#### Knowledge

The course covers the following three key areas:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Vocabulary will continue from the basis that students have covered at KS3, but will be at a higher, more proficient level. You will learn more about the culture of the countries that speak the language. Homework tasks will consolidate and extend what you have learnt in class and will often involve learning new language. Regular vocabulary tests will check language learnt for homework. It is an essential part of the course.

## **Assessment**

Students will be assessed in final exams at the end of the two-year course. Students will have to complete a speaking assessment shortly before the GCSE exam season in Year 11. Students will sit three exams in the exam season of Year 11 in Listening, Reading and Writing. Each of these units are worth 25% of the overall mark for the GCSE.

The speaking exam is completed before the exam season and is also worth 25% of the overall mark. Students are expected to understand the contexts and meanings of a variety of situations and show their comprehension through answering questions in English and the target language. Students will be expected to translate to and from the target language. Equally students will be expected to write for a number of tasks in a number of purposes. Students are entered for either Foundation or Higher tiers across all exams in Languages.

**For further details, please see Mrs Hogg (Head of Languages) or use the following link to the main exam board website: [French](#) and [Spanish](#)**