

MFL

The school strongly believes in the benefits of students studying Modern Foreign Languages and they form part of our core curriculum to GCSE. As well as broadening understanding of other cultures, the study of another language helps students develop communication skills and offers an opportunity to focus on the mechanics of language, such as grammar and sentence structure.

Parmiter's offers the opportunity to study French, German and Spanish. In recent years, Latin and beginners' Mandarin have been offered as twilight lessons. Students study one foreign language in Year 7 and add a second in Year 8. They study these two languages throughout Key Stage 3, and then choose one, or both, in Key Stage 4, where Modern Foreign Languages is part of our core curriculum. In Year 7, students are taught in mixed ability classes but are usually taught in sets in Years 8 – 11.

In all languages, students study a range of topics and work on the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The department uses a wide range of resources to develop skills and knowledge. Many courses are taught using online resources, which students access from home, and they are encouraged to access other web-based resources in their own time. Students are exposed to authentic material in lessons as well, for example, film and radio clips or magazine articles, to provide engaging and realistic material that can also provide cultural insights.

There are numerous trips and we have well established links with schools in France, Germany and Spain, offering the opportunity for cultural exchanges. We review trips to ensure they provide the best experience linguistically and culturally for our students. Recent examples include Germany (Rhine Valley) and France (Normandy) in Year 7, exchanges to Germany (Munich) and Spain (Madrid) in Years 8, 9 & 10 and an exchange to France in Years 9 & 10.