

Modern Foreign Languages

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 often 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 as, for example, film and radio clips or magazine articles, to provide engaging and realistic material that can also provide cultural insights.

We organise various trips and these are regularly reviewed to ensure they provide the best experience linguistically and culturally for our students. We believe visiting a country and interacting with people who speak a different language and have different cultural backgrounds are important for fostering a greater understanding and tolerance and helping to create a passion for languages.