



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Welcome to the Modern Foreign Languages department at Prince Henry's High school. As languages are compulsory for the vast majority of students at KS3 and KS4, this is a particularly busy and active department comprising 8 full and part time teachers and 1 language assistant.

There are 6 classrooms belonging to the MFL department, all with interactive whiteboards and software dedicated to the learning and teaching of foreign languages.

The languages taught are French, German, Spanish and Italian.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING LANGUAGES

According to the CIA World Fact Book, only 5.6 % of the world's total population speaks English as a primary language. That number doubles when people who speak English as a second or third language are counted. By conservative estimates, this means that well over four-fifths of the world's population do not speak English.

It is true that English has become a global language over the past several decades, but the attitude that English alone is enough creates many limitations. To remain monolingual is to stunt your educational development, to restrict your communication and thinking abilities and to deny yourself the ability to fully appreciate and understand the world in which you live. Learning another language opens up new opportunities and gives you perspectives that you might never have encountered otherwise. Personal, professional, social, and economic considerations all point to the advantages of learning foreign languages and employees need to communicate in languages other than their own. Many fields such as the travel industry, communications, advertising, education and engineering have sectors dealing with foreign language study. Having better employment opportunities and greater chances of excelling in business suggest the importance of foreign language study. It is also worth remembering that most of our other European counterparts have to continue with at least one foreign language up to the age of 18.

KEY STAGE 3

Students opt for their language choice in Year 8, before arriving at Prince Henry's. This means that in Year 9, all students at Prince Henry's embark upon their GCSE language straight away and continue with this language choice for three years. Students are assessed throughout the year and sit an exam at the end of Year 9. All assessments are based on the new GCSE numerical grading system.

Students have 5 hours of their language choice per fortnight. Topic areas covered are as follows:

French

Autumn Term 1 - Revision of basic skills

Autumn Term 2 - Family

Spring Term 1 - Healthy living and Lifestyle

Spring Term 2 - School and Education

Summer Term 1 - School and Education

Summer Term 2 - Free Time and Activities

Spanish

Autumn Term 1 - Introducing yourself, describing classroom items, saying who is in your family and animals

Autumn Term 2 - Describing appearance, family members and relationships

Spring Term 1 - saying where you're from, what languages you speak, saying where you're going to live in the future, school subjects

Spring Term 2 - Telling the time, the school day and school facilities

Summer Term 1 - Healthy living, exercise, food and drink

Summer Term 2 - Types of diet and revision of the year

German

Autumn Term 1 - Introducing yourself, describing classroom items, family, numbers

Autumn Term 2 - Describing appearance, family relationships

Spring Term 1 - Sport, music, free time, TV

Spring Term 2 - Where you live, including advantages and disadvantages, your home, household chores

Summer Term 1 - My studies and opinions

Summer Term 2 - Revision of topics covered

KEY STAGE 4

The vast majority of students are required to study a language at Key Stage Four, although some exceptions are made for students who require additional literacy support. At the end of Key Stage 3, students simply continue with the language option they followed in Year 9. There is also the opportunity at this point to choose a second language for those who wish to do so. We use AQA as the exam board for all languages at GCSE and students are awarded a full GCSE at the end of Year 11.

The GCSE examination is composed of 25% Speaking, 25% Writing, 25% Listening and 25% Reading. All skills will be examined at the end of Year 11 as formal, external exams.

Equipping students with as broad a knowledge base as possible of the culture of the target language country, together with the basics to be able to communicate effectively with natives, is at the heart of our teaching.

Students have 5 hours of their language per fortnight. Topic areas covered are as follows:

French - Year 10

Autumn Term 1 - Free time, Customs, Festivals and Celebrations

Autumn Term 2 - Customs, Festivals and Celebrations

Spring Term 1 - Travel and Tourism

Spring Term 2 - Celebrity Culture

Summer Term 1 - Media and Technology

Summer Term 2 - Media and Technology, revision of units covered

French - Year 11

Autumn Term 1 - Education and Work, Preparation for Speaking exam questions

Autumn Term 2 - Where you live

Spring Term 1 - Environment

Spring Term 2 - Healthy Living and Lifestyle

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

Spanish - Year 10

Autumn Term 1 - Sport, Free Time, TV

Autumn Term 1 & 2 - Celebrations and Traditions

Spring Term 1 - Celebrity Culture

Spring Term 2 - Social Media, advantages and disadvantages of the internet

Summer Term 1 - Technology

Summer Term 2 - End of year exam preparation

Spanish - Year 11

Autumn Term 1 - Travel and Tourism

Autumn Term 2 - House and Home, Local Area

Spring Term 1 - The Environment

Spring Term 2 - Jobs and Employment

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

German - Year 10

Autumn Term 1 - Identity and Culture, Relationships with Family

Autumn Term 2 - Healthy Living and Lifestyles

Spring Term 1 - Life at School and College

Spring Term 2 - The World of Work, Education post 16

Summer Term 1 - Celebrity Culture

Summer Term 2 - Customs, Festivals and Celebrations

German - Year 11

Autumn Term 1 - Travel and Tourism

Autumn Term 2 - Media and Technology

Spring Term 1 - The Environment and Where People Live

Spring Term 2 - Preparation for Speaking Exam

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

Italian - Year 10

Autumn Term 1 - Introductions, free time

Autumn Term 2 - Free time, describing where you live

Spring Term 1 - Daily routine, school

Spring Term 2 - School, future plans

Summer Term 1 - Travel and holidays

Summer Term 2 - Travel and holidays

Italian - Year 11

Autumn Term 1 - Healthy living

Autumn Term 2 - Work and work experience, festivities

Spring Term 1 - Environment, social problems

Spring Term 2 - Social problems, technology

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

KEY STAGE 5

The languages available at A Level are French, German, Spanish and Italian. In order to study a language at A Level, students must have at least a grade 6 at GCSE in that language. The exam board used is Edexcel and all external examinations take place at the end of Year 13. The A Level exam is composed of three papers for each language; Speaking, worth 30% of the exam, Listening, Reading and Translation, worth 40% of the exam and Written Response to Works and Translation, worth 30% of the exam. A film and a piece of literature are studied for the latter paper.

These courses enable the students to be able to extend their knowledge of the target language country whilst developing spontaneity and interactivity in their spoken and written language.

Small group work with the language assistants is an integral part of the course.

Topic areas covered are as follows:

French - Year 12

Autumn Term 1 - Changes in family structure, Music

Autumn Term 2 - Festivals and traditions, Media

Spring Term 1 - Study of the film, 'Intouchables', French education system

Spring Term 2 - Study of film, 'Intouchables', World of work

Summer Term 1 - Immigration, Extreme Right

Summer Term 2 - Research Project

French - Year 13

Autumn Term 1 - Immigration, Extreme Right

Autumn Term 2 - Extreme Right, Immigration, Occupation and Resistance

Spring Term 1 - Occupation and Resistance, Study of novel, 'Un sac de billes'

Spring Term 2 - Occupation and Resistance, Study of novel, 'Un sac de billes'

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

Spanish - Year 12

Autumn Term 1 - Changing family structure, marriage and relationships; the working world; music - changes, trends and the impact on contemporary culture; television; new technology

Autumn Term 2 - Television and New Technology

Film studies - El Laberinto del Fauno (Pan's Labyrinth); political and artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world

Spring Term 1 - Film studies - El Laberinto del Fauno (Pan's Labyrinth); the impact of tourism on Spanish society

Spring Term 2 - Festivals and Traditions; revision and exam preparations; the impact of tourism on Spanish economy

Summer Term 1 - Internal exams; festivals and traditions

Summer Term 2 - Introduction to Independent Research Project; introduction to literature studies - La Casa de Bernarda Alba

Spanish - Year 13

Autumn Term 1 - Immigration - the positive impact and challenges to Spanish society; literature studies - La Casa de Bernarda Alba

Autumn Term 2 - Immigration - integration into Spanish society; literature studies - La Casa de Bernarda Alba; the Spanish Civil War

Spring Term 1 - Independent Research Project review; Revisit Film studies - El Laberinto del Fauno (Pan's Labyrinth); Franco's dictatorship

Spring Term 2 - Transition to democracy; revisit literature studies - La Casa de Bernarda Alba; revision and exam preparation

Summer - End of course exam preparation

German - Year 12

Autumn Term 1 - Nature and the Environment, Music

Autumn Term 2 - Festivals and Traditions, Media

Spring Term 1 - Study of the film, 'Good Bye Lenin!', German Education System

Spring Term 2 - Study of the film, 'Good Bye Lenin!', World of Work

Summer Term 1 - Immigration, German multicultural society

Summer Term 2 - Research Project

German - Year 13

Autumn Term 1 - Immigration, Extreme Right

Autumn Term 2 - Life in East Germany before reunification,

Spring Term 1 - The Reunification of Germany, Study of novel, 'Der Vorleser'

Spring Term 2 - The Reunification of Germany, Study of novel, 'Der Vorleser'

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

Italian - Year 12

Autumn Term 1 - Changes in family structure

Autumn Term 2 - Italian education system, World of work

Spring Term 1 - Music, Media

Spring Term 2 - Festivals and traditions

Summer Term 1 - Study of the film 'La vita è bella'

Summer Term 2 - Study of the film 'La vita è bella', Research Project

Italian - Year 13

Autumn Term 1 - Immigration

Autumn Term 2 - Immigration, Fascism to present day

Spring Term 1 - Study of novel, 'Io non ho paura'

Spring Term 2 - Study of novel, 'Io non ho paura'

Summer Term 1 - End of course examination preparation

EXTRA CURRICULUM

TRIPS ABROAD

We offer various trips abroad, aimed at giving students the invaluable experience of visiting the country in which the language they study is spoken. Each academic year the department runs a trip to Paris and Barcelona.