

AS/A2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH

Entry requirements:

Grade B at GCSE or above

Examination board: AQA

Teachers:

French: D Glize*, J Askew, A Griffiths, C Brabban, E Farrell

German: G Driver, B Commandeur, C Madin

Spanish: J Askew, R Dunys

Timetable organisation

AS and A2 Specifications are taught by pairs of teachers who cover the syllabus between them in 5 lessons per week. There is also a timetabled weekly session with the Foreign Language Assistant.

Main Syllabus areas

Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

- The AS qualification represents the first half of a full A Level. The standard of work is that expected of candidates half-way through a full A Level course of study.
- The second part of A Level (A2) is made up of AS and A2, each counting for 50%.
- A complete grammar revision course from basic level will enable students to consolidate their knowledge and to build upon it to AS Level (and to A2).
- Listening practice takes place in the classroom and at home.
- Weekly sessions with the assistant will further enhance and improve communication skills.
- The course uses a range of materials both authentic and textbook to develop all language skills.
- The course aims to tackle topical, relevant issues as defined by the syllabus.

The following topics will be covered:

- Media
- Popular culture
- Healthy living/Lifestyle
- Family/Relationships

Advanced Level (A2)

The Advanced Level will build on the progress made in all 4 skills in the first year of AS study and is designed to encourage candidates to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language, develop critical insights into the society of the target language countries and provide a suitable foundation for further studies.

The following topics will be covered:

- Environment
- The multi-cultural society
- Contemporary social issues
- 1 cultural topic, which could include literature, cinema, a geographical region or a historical period

Method of assessment

AS examination (after 1 year of study)

- Listening, Reading, Writing (70% of total AS / 35% of total A Level marks)
- Speaking (30% of total AS / 15% of total A Level marks)

A2 examination (after 2 years of study)

- Listening, Reading, Writing (35% of total A Level marks)
- Speaking (15% of total A Level marks)

Qualities required

An interest in languages is essential, as is the willingness to communicate, meet people and find out about other cultures

Links with other subjects

Languages have close links with European Studies, Business Studies and Law courses and a language element is increasingly found in Management studies and Combined Arts and Science courses. The study of a language also provides a refreshing contrast with science based subjects. As a discipline which demands rigorous analysis and fluent communicative skills, it enhances all Post 16 study.

Career prospects

There are many courses available at university for those students who wish to continue studying languages to a high level. Increasingly, students from Tipton are choosing to combine the study of French/German/Spanish with another subject or with subjects such as Law, Business Studies, Management Studies, European Studies, Economics, Maths, Financial Management or the study of a new language such as Portuguese, Russian or Japanese from scratch. A high level of linguistic ability is a marketable skill – a modern foreign language is increasingly demanded in commerce, law, leisure and tourism, sales and engineering, and by major charities. Languages offer enhanced job opportunities in a highly competitive graduate employment market. "Language graduates have lower rates of unemployment than graduates in the great majority of other subjects" (K. Marshall).

Extension and enrichment opportunities

- Theatre visits: arranged when relevant to courses of study.
- Student conferences: usually hosted by universities, with lectures on various aspects of the course/texts for study
- Weekly conversation classes with the French/German/Spanish language assistants
- Y12/13 work experience in France
- Y12 work experience in Germany
- Y12/13 Spanish work experience/linguistic and cultural visit

These provide an invaluable insight into the life and culture of France/Germany/Spain. Students have in the past used these experiences to their advantage when applying to university.