

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The Modern Foreign Languages Department at South Wilts is large and successful, achieving some of the best GCSE results in the school. We are currently in a period of transition as we re-model our MFL provision. Historically, French and German have been equal first languages and these are taught to GCSE and A Level. Spanish was formerly only offered at A Level as part of our open access sixth form. In the main school, we introduced Key Stage 3 Spanish in 2024, and this year we have started teaching Spanish GCSE. Results in all examinations are extremely good. Although choosing a language at GCSE is not compulsory, we are extremely proud of our high number of GCSE linguists.

The Department sets high standards and is staffed by enthusiastic, committed specialist teachers. There are currently four full time and four part time teachers. We encourage students to communicate with confidence as well as learn the structures of a language. Staff are expected to use the target language as much as is sensible in the classroom. The Department is energetic and keen to embrace new technologies in MFL teaching.

### Curriculum

In Year 7 all students begin French and German. All students then continue with French and German in Year 8, and start Spanish. They then choose the two languages they take forward to Year 9. In Year 10 all students are encouraged to take at least one foreign language and the GCSE examination is taken at the end of Year 11, using AQA. Under the option programme it is possible for a student to opt for two language subjects at GCSE. There is one group of French, German and Spanish at A Level and we follow the AQA specification.

| Year group / language       | Number of timetable periods per fortnight | Teaching time equivalent per fortnight |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Year 7 French               | 2                                         | 2 hours                                |
| Year 7 German               | 2                                         | 2 hours                                |
| Year 8 French               | 2                                         | 2 hours                                |
| Year 8 German               | 2                                         | 2 hours                                |
| Year 8 Spanish              | 3                                         | 3 hours                                |
| Year 9 Language 1           | 3.5                                       | 3.5 hours                              |
| Year 9 Language 2           | 3.5                                       | 3.5 hours                              |
| Year 10 GCSE option subject | 5                                         | 5 hours                                |
| Year 11 GCSE option subject | 5                                         | 5 hours                                |
| A Level option subject      | 9                                         | 9 hours                                |

The Department is well resourced with five specialist classrooms equipped with Promethean boards. The Department has two specialist language seminar rooms for small group or one to one tuition. At GCSE and A Level we use the Oxford AQA resources and Kerboodle. The GCSE French department also sometimes uses Tricolore 4. In all Key Stage 3 classes, the Department uses Sentence Builders to support the language learning of the students, rather than adherence to a textbook, although we sometimes use Expo for French, Echo for German and ¡Viva! for Spanish.

The French department operates an annual immersion trip where Year 10 and 13 French students are offered a trip to Normandy. The Department organises a variety of other cultural events throughout the year.

