

MFL Learning Area Information

The MFL Learning Area comprises the teaching of Spanish and French across the school Key Stages.

High quality, engaging and dynamic teaching and learning is the foundation of the philosophy of languages teaching and we are looking to recruit a high-quality member of staff who will contribute to ensuring that all students leave Oldfield School achieving the very best that they can and are instilled with a love of languages. The MFL classes are in the main school building and are well-equipped rooms with a range of visual resources to promote engagement.

There are seven specialist teachers in the learning area, who are highly experienced, and we work in a supportive and collaborative manner. Within the learning area, we currently have two TLR positions; Leader of Learning and Second in Department.

At KS3 all students study either Spanish or French. In Year 8 and 9 we introduce dual linguists' sets to a select group where students are able to continue with their first language along with an additional second language.

Students are taught in tutor groups in Year 7. In Year 8 and 9 pupils are set into mixed ability single linguist groups and dual linguist groups based on Year 7 end of term assessment results throughout the year.

Students then opt to study French or Spanish at GCSE in mixed ability groups, with some students opting to continue with both languages according to the AQA specification which covers a range of content and a balance of the four core skills of language study.

At A level both languages are offered, and we currently have a group in each language in both Year 12 and Year 13. We currently also have some FLA sessions for A-level linguists to help develop their confidence orally. We have had excellent results in the last few years.

This is an exciting time for the MFL Learning Area, and Oldfield Sixth Form as a whole, with significant growth in the number of sixth form students. Current applications and interest for the 2024-25 cohort indicate we will again have a group in each target language.

Obviously extra-curricular activities are essential in the teaching of languages and we have a diverse range of in-school activities for all students, visits and workshops for many students and residential visits as part of the whole school Activities Week programme. We currently offer trips to Paris, Barcelona, Benalmádena and Salamanca across all the Key Stages. We see these out-of-classroom learning experiences as vital to the workings of the team and from them we aim to inspire and broaden the learning of students in all years. We are keen to recruit staff who can contribute and develop this.

Our teaching staff in the learning area have worked collaboratively to develop bespoke, comprehensive schemes of work across the KS3 and KS4 curriculum that are fully resourced, giving teachers some autonomy with regard to pace and additional resources. We subscribe to Kerboodle and make full use of the interactive nature of this package. We usually have a trainee teacher each year.

Quality Assurance systems are in place with a programme of work scrutiny sessions, learning walks by the Leader of Learning and SLT. Feedback and self-reflection are considered important aspects of the development of all teachers and as such we welcome opportunities to work collaboratively within school and to work alongside other subject areas as appropriate.

This is an exciting time to join this passionate, creative department and to become part of a forward-looking team.