

Course Titles: GCSE MFL French or German

Awarding Body: AQA

Further information available from: Mrs Schlicht

Students who study a foreign language don't just gain language skills – they develop excellent communication skills. Learning a Modern Foreign Language such as French or German boosts brain power, improves memory and enhances the ability to multi-task. It is also shown to improve performance in other academic areas.

The course contains three themes which apply to all four question papers:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

The GCSE course builds on what has been studied from Year 7 and is based on the four language skills of –

- listening
- speaking
- reading
- writing

The examinations are divided into two tiers, foundation and higher, and students will be entered for the one most suited to their ability. Students will be taught and encouraged to cope with a variety of activities and tasks, ranging from basic word recognition and phrases to writing longer texts and holding a conversation with a native speaker. A foreign language dictionary is essential in Key Stage 4.

Equal emphasis is placed on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, each worth 25% of the final mark. All skills will be assessed by examination at the end of the course.

Students of all abilities can take a language at GCSE and the most able linguists would be encouraged to consider doing so. All that is needed is a great deal of enthusiasm, commitment to independent learning and preparation at home.

Where can a GCSE in MFL take me?

People with qualifications in Modern Languages like French and German may work on a self-employed basis as interpreters or translators. However, many others choose careers not directly related to their subject but where there is the opportunity to use their language skills, for example working for companies who trade or offer services internationally or to non-English speaking customers and suppliers as a broadcast journalist, a diplomat, a logistics manager or a sales executive amongst others.