

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT WADDES DON

**We believe that languages enrich a person's life: linguistically, culturally and academically and that language learning has the power to encourage greater understanding and cultural appreciation.**

## Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, we aim to maximise students' access to foreign languages and instil an enthusiasm for languages, their associated culture and customs.

Many students joining the school in Year 7 experience regular timetabled lessons of French for the first time and our aim is to promote the enjoyment of languages and a confidence to deal with unfamiliar language and grammatical structures. In Year 8, the more able linguists study Spanish, while also deepening their knowledge of French. Our more recent approaches have been informed by the Pedagogy Review into Languages teaching, led by Ian Baulkham. This has increased our focus on phonics, the teaching of grammar and the importance of homework.

## Key Stage 4

The curriculum delves deeper into ideas that have been introduced in part at KS3, allowing for revision of knowledge before deepening the content. Increasingly complex vocabulary and grammar are introduced to students and there is a large focus on listening, reading, writing, translation and speaking skills. Students refine their depth of knowledge in each component.

Assessment practices are introduced in Year 9 and students begin their practice of past GCSE questions on particular topic areas. This builds students' confidence and resilience when faced with unfamiliar language. Students experience their first mock speaking exam in Year 9 and this practice continues throughout Years 10 and 11. We have conducted extensive research into the value of speaking during every language lesson and this has increased students' confidence significantly.

## Key Stage 5

Students complete an individual Research Project which encourages them to think critically, evaluate knowledge which has been presented to them while presenting their own ideas and analysis of their findings. By the end of Year 13, students have developed the necessary skills to analyse complex and numerous resources and produce a bibliography. We offer foreign languages conferences, visits to London to develop reading and research skills, study of foreign literature and films and the use of native language speakers in lessons.

## Outcomes

Students' enjoyment and understanding of foreign languages is central to our teaching methods. Students' attitude towards languages is positive and GCSE results in French and Spanish have consistently been significantly above the national average. A good number of students opt to study a language at Key Stage 4, with a smaller number continuing to A Level.

The department is very well resourced, and we make considerable use of ICT within lessons.

## Curriculum Organisation

Yr 7	All pupils study French and are placed in sets at the end of the autumn term.
Yr 8	Most pupils study both French and Spanish, with two groups studying just French.
Yrs 9-11	Pupils follow their chosen GCSE courses. A good number of students choose to study at least one MFL, following the AQA syllabus. Pupils are placed in sets where timetabling allows.
Yr 12 & 13	French and Spanish are offered, following the AQA syllabus. We are keen to recruit high numbers of pupils studying a language at A Level.

## Visits Abroad

There is a thriving programme of visits abroad which we are keen to develop.

Yr 8	Three-day visit to Opal Coast. Students visit a snail farm, a chocolaterie, a goats' cheese farm and a hypermarket, and spend free time in Le Touquet.
	Three-day visit to Seville. Students attend a language course and take part in activities at the market.
Yrs 9 & 10	Five-day visit to Paris. Students attend a language course and visit the sights of Paris.

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