



Languages Learning Area

Welcome to an overview of the Languages Learning Area

Welcome

I am Mr Palmer, the Head of Learning Area for Languages here at Mossbourne Community Academy. We have 15 staff in our Learning Area which is housed in the East Wing of the academy.

The Learning Area has four classrooms, including a dedicated computer room. All classrooms are furnished with an interactive whiteboard that facilitates language-learning provision.

Subjects

Subjects taught in the Languages Learning Area are Spanish, French, Turkish, Latin and Classics. All students study Spanish from in Years 7 and 8 (KS3) and the vast majority of students sit their language GCSE (KS4) in Spanish too with some taking up the option to then pursue Spanish at A-level (KS5.)

In Year 7 the students are streamed into two equivalent-ability bands and are set by ability, based on KS2 entry data, into four groups. The two Set One classes pursue French, in addition to Spanish, at KS3. As opposed to having three periods of Spanish per week, these students have two periods of Spanish and two periods of French. At the end of Y7, student progress is reviewed and for those who have excelled in Spanish as a sole language there is opportunity to add French via a dual-language class. Students who have studied French in KS3 may study French as a main language or French as a second language, alongside Spanish, at GCSE (numbers permitting.) French is also taught at A-level (KS5.)

Turkish runs for all students who have exposure to the language in their home environment. From Year 8 onwards, students take one period of Turkish per week. Students sit the GCSE examination when we are confident that they will attain the highest possible grade, in most cases a Grade 9. This may mean that a student sits GCSE Turkish in Year 9 or in Year 10. Once a student completes their GCSE Turkish, they begin the study of A-level Turkish with a view to sitting the examination when we are confident that the student will achieve their optimum grade.

Latin is studied from Year 7 through to Year 13. All students complete the "Classical Worlds", six-week course in Year 7, as part of the Bourne Scholar enrichment programme. Classical Worlds introduces students to the Latin language and Greek/Roman culture, history and society. At the end of Year 7, students may register their interest in pursuing Latin at GCSE; places on the Latin GCSE course are based on enthusiasm demonstrated and language teacher recommendations. The formal Latin GCSE course begins in Y8 with students sitting their Latin GCSE in Y10. Students may then opt to continue their study of Latin at A-level. Classics is offered exclusively as an A-level subject, complementing the study of Latin.

Curriculum

KS3: in Y7 and Y8, the study of a language encompasses learning the grammatical foundations, vocabulary spanning greetings to food to holidays abroad and frequent exposure to target-language culture and society through the medium of listening, speaking, reading and writing activities.



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KS4: from Y9-Y11, the content of KS3 is broadened and studied in greater depth. Topics such as climate change and the world of work are introduced to the syllabus and students are required to study more complex grammatical notions whilst further developing a holistic appreciation for target-language culture and society.

KS5: A-level language study requires students to formulate their own points of view on real world issues affecting countries/parts of the world where the target language is spoken, ranging from the political to the social to the moral. Students must be able to critically analyse and evaluate literature and prose (in the target language in Spanish/French/Turkish, in English in Latin/Classics) and have a secure grasp of the language's grammar, withstanding Classics.

For a detailed overview of the curriculum offer for subjects please click on the link to our curriculum maps for the subjects taught in the Languages Learning Area.

Assessment

Students in KS3-5 are regularly assessed in language subjects in order for us to closely monitor progress and therefore identify and mitigate underachievement swiftly. With the exception of the final half-term of the year, students complete a formal assessment each half-term and are regularly assessed informally through knowledge organiser quizzes, grammar tests and marked student work. In the final half-term of the academic year, students in all year group sit formal exams. Students predominantly receive formative feedback; however, where an assessment replicates an exam students also receive summative feedback.

Homework

Homework is set regularly with a one-hour long piece of work being set every week. By Years 11-13, we expect students to be completing independent revision in addition to regular homework.

Extra-curricular

The Learning Area offers a variety of extra-curricular activities:

- Languages Week: small taught sessions in non-curricular languages e.g. Czech, Slovak, Catalan, Greek; foreign language films, language-themed 'Treasure Hunt' and more!
- Trips to lectures, restaurants and plays for A-level students

GCSE & A-level Achievement

GCSE and A-level results in Languages have consistently improved over the course of the last five years. The headlines from the June 2020 series were:

- A-level:
 - o Spanish: 92% A*-C
 - o Classics: 100% A*-C
 - o Latin: 100% A*-B
 - o Turkish: 100% A*-A
- GCSE:



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- Across all languages: 54% grades 7-9
- Spanish: 89% grades 5-9
- Latin: 100% grades 5-9
- Turkish: 100% grades 5-9

A number of our students either continue the study of their foreign language at university or indeed choose to learn a new language ab-initio. Students attend universities spanning Oxbridge, the Russell and Red Brick groups, taking up courses ranging from Classics to European Business to Japanese.