



## Questions from new pupils



### **How often will I have French, German or Spanish?**

French 3 times per fortnight, German 4 times a fortnight for half a year and Spanish 4 times a fortnight for half a year.

### **Will I have my own textbook?**

We use digital textbooks in Year 7 in French, German and Spanish. For French it is Dynamo 1, for Spanish Viva 1 and for German Stimmt 1.

### **What topics will we be covering?**

Talking about ourselves, our families and pets; describing ourselves and talking about our life at school. You'll be learning to give opinions as well, improving your writing and speaking skills and learning how to recognise key language patterns.



### **Will we also learn grammar?**

Yes. You need to know this so that you can make up your own sentences in the language confidently.

### **What will we do in lessons?**

All sorts of things! Questions and answers, role plays, surveys, language games, listening to recordings, songs, watching video clips, written work, pair work, group work, group conversations with the assistants, IT and much more!

### **Will we get homework?**

Yes. This is important to help you remember the work you have covered in class. Homework is set once a week for about 30 minutes each time. It is usually either a written piece or a learning homework.

### **Will I have the chance to meet people from France, Germany or Spain?**

Of course! We have native language assistants working with us each year and we can arrange email links; and we are keen to develop trips to target language countries.



# MODERN LANGUAGES

## WHY LEARN LANGUAGES

### Languages are useful!



France is our nearest neighbour, a holiday destination for many of us and the largest country in Western Europe. **French** is an official language in over 40 countries, from Switzerland to Senegal, from Canada to New Caledonia. **German** is the most widely spoken first language in Europe and in addition to Germany, Switzerland and Austria, it is well known throughout Central and Eastern Europe. **Spanish** has 477,000,000 native speakers worldwide, and that number increases all the time! Spain is also a favourite holiday destination. Languages will continue to be important, and our ability to effectively communicate and trade with other countries in their language is becoming even more crucial.

### Languages help you develop lots of useful skills!

Learning a foreign language helps you to become a much better communicator. It helps you improve your listening skills as well as your IT skills, and it opens your mind to other ways of life and other ways of looking at the world. That's why linguists have such good job prospects!



### Languages are not difficult!



Languages are for all, whatever your ability in other subjects. At Woodhouse Grove we have students who have excelled in 3 languages and also others who have concentrated on one or two. Our GCSE and A-Level results are strong in all 3 languages, including A\* grades at A-Level and 8/9 grades at GCSE.

### Languages are fun!

We want you to enjoy learning a language at Woodhouse Grove whether it is French, German or Spanish. Lessons will be very varied with listening, games, singing, lessons in the language lab and lots of speaking in the foreign language. There will be grammar and plenty of new vocabulary to learn and regular tests but you'll also learn about France, Germany and Spain and work with our language assistants.

## LANGUAGES AT WOODHOUSE GROVE

### Years 7 to 9

All students in Year 7 study 3 languages in mixed ability groups. They study French for 3 lessons per fortnight all year round and German and Spanish for 4 lessons per fortnight but for half the year. Students in Year 8 have a free choice of 2 languages to continue studying, and by the end of Year 8 they are able to make an informed and reasoned choice about which language or languages to continue with in Year 9 and for GCSE.

### GCSE

Most students study either one or two languages in Years 10 and 11. In each language, pupils have 6 lessons per fortnight and courses lead to the AQA GCSE examinations. There are regular lessons with the assistants.

### Sixth Form

French, German and Spanish are all available at A-Level with 10 lessons per fortnight. A-Level groups are normally shared between 2 members of staff and students are prepared for the AQA examinations. There are also weekly lessons with the assistant.

### Contacts with native speakers

The Department encourages regular contact with native speakers of the languages taught. Each year we have French, German and Spanish speaking assistants who work with pupils of all ages.



### Facilities

We have very good facilities which include six classrooms and two small rooms for work with the assistants. Each classroom is equipped with a whiteboard or interactive whiteboard, listening equipment and a PC linked to a digital projector. We also have a digital language laboratory with 25 individual workstations and an interactive whiteboard. This combines all the advantages of a traditional language lab with those of a modern computer suite.