



## MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

### **Introduction**

The specialist status of the school ..... has brought a vibrant ethos to the school, and the richness and diversity of languages play a key part in the girls' academic and personal development.+ OFSTED, 2008

The school is committed to the importance of studying Modern Languages and they form an important part of the schools core curriculum. French and Spanish are taught in the school. All pupils have the opportunity to study at least one language and some gifted linguists take the opportunity to study both. Italian, Portuguese and Mandarin are also taught in twilight sessions. The school was redesignated as a Language College in 2008.

This post offers an exciting career move for an energetic and ambitious Modern Language teacher who will continue to lead the department to outstanding.

In the recent Kirkland Rowell survey of pupils, Spanish was one of the subjects most enjoyed by pupils. There is a dynamism in the department, with pupils exposed to high expectations and high quality teaching, making for confident young linguists.

### **Staffing**

The Modern Languages Department is a lively and hardworking team, with 5.5 full time teachers, including one member of staff who is responsible for Community Development. Two members of staff are native speakers. There are also Language Assistants (1 French and 1 Spanish).

### **Curriculum**

All pupils in Year 7 study French and most pupils in Year 8 study both French and Spanish. The focus is on acquiring language learning skills, on gaining a foundation in grammar and on developing confidence in speaking. In Year 9 girls also follow a scheme of work designed to deepen their intercultural understanding of countries where French and Spanish are spoken. In Year 10, girls study either French or Spanish at GCSE, with the most able linguists studying both (normally about 25 girls). A small number of girls follow a vocational course, called the Certificate of Business Language Competence which forms part of the Travel and Tourism pathway. Homework is set twice a week and is an integral part of teaching and learning.

## **Resources**

The Department is well resourced. All students have textbooks (currently Metro for French and Mira for Spanish) and differentiated workbooks are used to consolidate and practice learning. The language suite consists of four adjoining classrooms. There are also networked computers and interactive whiteboards in the Department. The Department makes regular extensive use of its 30-place multi-media centre and also has three seminar rooms and a language library for oral and small group work.

ICT is used well to enhance learning, particularly in Modern Foreign Languages.+  
OFSTED, 2008

Promoting the cultural life of the school and understanding our place in the global community is an important aspect of the work of the department. Through arranging activities to celebrate our cultural diversity and organising educational visits, liaising and working with our partner schools in the community locally and abroad, the department was instrumental in enabling the school to achieve the International Schools Award.

## **Exam Results**

Exam results show an strong upward trend:

<b>GCSE Results - % A – C passes.</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Whole School 5+ A-C</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>88.5</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>90.4</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89.5</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>