



GCSE French and Spanish

Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

Educating The Individual For The Benefit Of All

Why Study GCSE French?

Language is more than words. Language is communication. Language is culture. Language is connection.

This is the strap line from the Edexcel GCSE course, a new and exciting qualification for 2026 which sits in line with our departmental approach to language learning.

If you enjoy expressing yourself in another language and learning about the French and Francophone World, then this is the course for you. Through the study of French, you will develop your comprehension skills, problem-solving ability and understanding of language in general, in both English as well as French. You will learn to understand the spoken and written language and be able to use it to communicate with others.

With the ever-changing global career landscape, the ability to speak more than one language is increasingly in demand. Languages enhance social mobility by opening doors to other worlds and cultures. It promotes ambition and empowers learners to dream beyond their immediate surroundings.

Learning French is fun and you will continue to develop skills and knowledge you have begun at Key Stage 3. A GCSE in French will build on this success and further develop you in future language learning.

Why Study GCSE Spanish?

Spanish can be taken as a new subject and is open to all, however it is recommended for students with an aptitude for a language. It is possible to change your option from French in Year 8 and is suitable for students who have a sound level in a language and a good understanding of grammar. We have a proven track record of students studying a language from scratch in Year 9 and this is a good opportunity to develop your linguistic skills.

Details of the course are the same as French.



Careers Options

There are a wide variety of careers where even being able to speak a little of a foreign language will put you ahead of the other applicants. A language GCSE qualification compliments a variety of career paths and post-16 courses. An obvious next step is a language A- Level or as an option alongside a B-Tec or apprenticeship. For employment, be it in an office in Leeds managing social media accounts in a foreign language or anywhere in the francophone world, languages have no geographical boundaries. Some universities and courses require a language so it is worth checking in advance. Languages also suit career paths such as fashion, engineering, journalism, law, education and manufacturing to name just a few. Some businesses offer higher salaries to employees who can speak another language.

What you will study

Students will learn how language skills are extremely important for work and holidays. These GCSE courses offer skills needed in French and Spanish speaking situations abroad. By studying a language, you will learn how to communicate with visitors to this country and to feel part of a broader culture. It also helps build confidence. Students will learn how to develop communication through the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing using a range of thematic contexts to reflect and represent diverse experiences. They can then speak and write about the things that interest them most.

French

French can be taken as a new subject and is open to all, but recommended for students with an aptitude for a language. It is possible to change your option from Spanish in Year 8 to French and the course is suitable for students who enjoy language learning and have a good understanding of grammar. We have a proven track record of students successfully studying a language as a new language in Year 9

Spanish

When learning Spanish, you will continue to develop the skills and knowledge you have begun in Key Stage 3. A GSCE in Spanish will build on this success and further develop you in future language learning as well as taking you on a journey to the Spanish and Hispanic World.



How is the subject assessed?

Specification:

Edexcel in French/Spanish

Assessment:

In Year 9 you will start a 3 year GCSE course

You will practise your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to extend your confidence and competence in expressing yourself in a foreign language. You will be regularly assessed for progress and attainment in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Speaking, Writing, Listening and Reading exams will take place at the end of Year 11.

For further information contact:

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