

What is the course like?

Through a range of interactive activities, French and Spanish pupils learn to express themselves across a variety of new and exciting topics including travel, equality, and gaming.

Pupils have already covered a large portion of the content of the GCSE course in Key Stage 3, and many of the pupils will already be working at a basic GCSE level in terms of grammar and vocabulary. Pupils do not need to be fluent in French or Spanish to do a GCSE. First and foremost, it is expected that pupils will enjoy being able to communicate in another language. The GCSE course will enable them to respond to French or Spanish with a degree of spontaneity, using a variety of different problem-solving strategies.

Pupils will be taught primarily using French/Spanish and should not expect to hear much English in lessons. This is the most effective way of learning a language, through immersion. Pupils will also need to learn vocabulary on a regular basis to be able to produce language from memory using apps like Quizlet, Blooket, and Duolingo.

We are excited to announce that we are also exploring the option of a French and Spanish KS4 trip, with more details to follow soon.

What is studied during the course?

The themes and topics covered in both French and Spanish are:

- My personal world including friends and family.
- Lifestyle and wellbeing including equality.
- My neighbourhood.
- Media and technology including social media and gaming.
- Studying and my future.
- Travel and tourism including where to visit in countries abroad speaking French and Spanish.

How is the course assessed?

While dictionaries are not allowed during any of the exams, the questions all use words from a specific list of vocabulary known as 'high frequency' words, which is a new improvement to the GCSE and potentially very helpful to pupils.

1: LISTENING exam - 25% of the final grade

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: understand specific details and key points, recognise attitudes, opinions, and emotions, write phrases, and draw conclusions. Pupils will hear the clips 3 times.

2: SPEAKING exam - 25% of the final grade – carried out by their Hardenhuish teacher, but marked externally.

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: seek and give information, carry out transactions, participate in conversations, narrate, and discuss past, present and future events, express ideas and points of view, use French/Spanish phonics with accuracy.

3: READING exam - 25% of the final grade.

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: understand specific details and key points, recognise attitudes, opinions, and emotions, and draw conclusions, translate from French/Spanish into English.