

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Faculty

Studying a language is a vital skill for a huge variety of careers today, and therefore has always been in Bishop Stopford's core curriculum at key stages 3 and 4. The MFL Faculty is a thriving and successful place to be, where students are always encouraged to try something new and push themselves outside of their comfort zone. We teach both French and Spanish, and the faculty comprises a diverse and highly-skilled group of linguists, with a mix of international backgrounds and teaching experiences. We are fortunate enough to have native speakers within the department, as well as staff with considerable teaching experience from all over the world. What brings our staff together is a passion for teaching and learning languages, and a strong commitment to the progress and wellbeing of our students. As a faculty, students and teachers learn both culturally and linguistically every day from each other.

We believe that the Faculty should always be an academically stimulating environment; however, we recognise that not all students learn in the same way. Therefore, students experience a wide range of activities in their language lessons ranging from study of grammar and vocabulary, to creative use of ICT and developing cultural knowledge, and this allows us to develop well-rounded, independent and curious learners. This rigorous, all-round approach has been highly successful and our external examination results, both at GCSE and at A level, have been consistently high. Extra-curricular opportunities are very much part of what we do here. There is an annual International Day, combining language awareness and world trade, where Year 8 learn more about how language learning can benefit business and enterprise projects. We also organise visiting French, and Spanish theatre groups and sixth form trips to Madrid and Geneva. Planning is under way for KS3 visits to France and Spain. There is a huge commitment to competitions and language enhancement, which the whole school supports. We always welcome new ideas from staff who would like to get involved and develop existing activities, or indeed, their own.

The Faculty is well resourced with a forward thinking approach to new technologies as well as book-based learning, and a class set of iPads exclusively for our use. We work together in teaching teams, to develop new resources and schemes of work for the GCSE and A level specifications.

For you and your career development, this is a supportive and unique place to be. We are a research-focused Faculty, with staff completing local, NPQ and Masters level research. The productive atmosphere amongst both staff and students allows you to develop and refine your classroom practice to the highest levels. You will be supported in the development of your career, both in and out the classroom, by both the faculty and wider school.



Vital Statistics

Faculty Members

4 full time and 3 part-time staff and a part-time admin assistant.

Facilities

7 specialist classrooms, each with projectors and a Faculty staff workroom. There is a class set of iPads exclusively for Faculty use.

GCSE

We follow the AQA French, and Spanish specifications. All students study a language to GCSE level, apart from a very small minority who are withdrawn from MFL to pursue an alternative curriculum. There is a dual-linguist group at GCSE.

A Level

We follow the AQA French and Spanish specifications, which provide great continuity from GCSE. Historically our results have always been very good, achieving 100% of grade A*-C.

Enrichment

Year 8 International Day, Flying Theatre group visits, school and national languages competitions, Key Stage 5 trips to Geneva and Madrid ,KS3 visits in the planning stage to France and Spain.