



Modern Foreign Languages is a rapidly growing and well-resourced department at OSA. We focus on encouraging students to develop a love of languages and to understand and enjoy the cultural differences they learn about. Students are always supported to have a go and do their best, even if they are not accurate, so that they can feel confident to try their skills and communicate in the real world with native speakers. We also concentrate on teaching the students how to learn a language so that they have the skills to pick up another in the future should they wish.

### KS3

Students will start learning either French, German or Spanish when they join us in Year 7. They are given a strong foundation of language learning irrespective of which language they study and an understanding of the culture of all the countries where their language is spoken. They have opportunities to be creative and independent with the language they learn across the key skill areas of speaking and writing and to hear and read authentic texts in their language. This is all supported by the latest interactive resources that also prepare them for the ultimate rigours of the GCSE.



**Oxford Spires Academy Paris Trip**

### KS4

At Key Stage 4 we follow the Edexcel GCSE French, German and Spanish courses of Studio, Stimmt and Viva which provide complete preparation for the new GCSE (9-1) language specifications. It is an expertly-developed course designed to help all students achieve their potential in GCSE (9-1) French, German or Spanish.

It is fully differentiated with parallel higher and foundation books. The course provides seamless progression from the Studio, Stimmt and Viva Key Stage 3 courses and sound grammatical progression. The carefully-constructed scheme of work ensures that grammar is introduced in a logical order and at the right pace for learners. Concepts are revisited and gradually combined with other concepts. The recycling of grammar helps students to grasp concepts and to use grammar independently across contexts. All four language skills are systematically developed through the course and there is a focus on skills such as translation, understanding authentic and literary texts and spontaneous speaking.

Throughout the course a focus on cultural content and on 'learning something new' helps to give students a sense of purpose and brings language learning to life.

Homework: is usually set twice a week in KS4 and should take around 40 minutes (but students should be looking over new vocabulary more regularly – ideally 10 minutes per day).

Task types to expect: online listening and/or reading exercises, online grammar exercises, online vocabulary tests, preparing written or spoken presentations, consolidation exercises in exercise books, checking, correcting, improving & redrafting work and research.

**KS5**

In order to study Alevel language it is recommended that you have achieved at least a grade 6 at GCSE in the same language. We offer all 3 languages to this level and we continue to follow the Edexcel exams which offers our students consistency and continuity. The courses look in depth at many interesting historical and cultural people and events from the countries where the language is spoken. Students get the opportunity to research aspects they find particularly interesting and also to even choose what they will talk about in the oral exam. Many of our students continue their language study as far as A level and a number also go on to study them at University

## Extra Curricular at Oxford Spires

In normal circumstances in school, the students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. For example they can work on cross curricular projects such as creating altars in art to celebrate the festival of “the day of the dead”, enter a French film competition, participate in workshops run by Oxford University, enter flash fiction competitions, join Mandarin classes or students can get involved in the Oxford German Network (a collaboration between Oxford

University and local schools) where they have opportunities to use their German in a range of ways from baking to producing videos and plays. OSA has a strong track record of winning prizes for these events. Staff are always on the lookout for exciting opportunities for our students to participate in and we have been involved in film writing competitions, ancient Japanese drama events etc.

**“I think learning a language is a good thing because it increases our knowledge about different countries and cultures in the world”**

**“I have been to Paris with the school and have had multiple opportunities with workshops where people came in or we went to an Oxford college to look at World War 1 poetry in French and English. It was really interactive and great to be part of. In Year 7 we learn silly, funny songs in the different languages which is great and also helps us to learn”**

**“I love languages because learning them opens a window into other cultures”**

**“I like languages because they open a world of opportunities. When you are fluent in a country’s language, many of that country’s resources are open to you”**



**Writers War Project**



A selected number of students get the chance to watch a German play every year, which is performed in schools across the UK and specifically written for young learners of German. Last year’s play was about a murder mystery in a badly run hotel, called ‘Das Schlimmste Hotel’.