



ST IVO SCHOOL

Details about the Languages Department

Learning a language opens up a whole world of opportunities. We are a committed and enthusiastic team of linguists. Our aim is to encourage enjoyment of language learning and ensure that all students are able to meet their potential in languages.

French and German are taught from Year 7, half the cohort starting on one language and half on the other. Our Year 8 pupils carry on learning the language started in Year 7 and get to learn the other main curriculum language as well as completing a beginner's course in Italian. This enables pupils to widen their perspectives, draw links between their languages and become better language learners before specialising in their preferred language and beginning their GCSE in Year 9.

At KS4 students can choose one or two languages chosen from French, German. Those who opt for French or German are entered for the AQA GCSE examination. We are working on increasing our uptake at KS5, although the standard of the students is high. Students are entered for the AQA A Level exams. Results in KS5 languages are excellent, in recent years all students have either met or exceeded their target.

At KS3 and KS4 we use the Echo (German) and Expo (French) textbooks. At both key stages we use a lot of our own ideas and materials to compliment the textbooks and ensure that lessons are relevant as well as engaging.

The department is also well resourced with a SMART board in every MFL room and enjoys access to networked ICT facilities with a planned timetable of access to ICT facilities. We use ICT a lot in our teaching and have subscriptions to a wide range of resources and websites. We have brand new textbooks with accompanying digital resources for the new A level as well as for the new 9-1 grade GCSEs.

In addition, the department benefits from the services of a Foreign Language Assistant. The FLA works with KS3 and KS4 students in class or in small groups. In particular, they support sixth form students, whom they help to prepare for speaking examinations through intensive oral work in small groups on topics from the syllabus. They also provide extra resources for the department in the form of recordings, CDs, blogs, DVDs, magazines, newspapers and books brought from home.

The department is fully committed to taking children abroad. Most colleagues are actively involved in trips. This year, year 8 students studying French had the opportunity to go to the French Christmas markets in December, whilst for those studying German, visited the Europacentre in Essex. Each May, students in year 9 German travel to Cologne. Sixth Form students are encouraged to visit and / or participate in work experience in France or Germany.

We are also committed to providing enrichment activities for our students outside of lessons. At Key Stage 3 students are offered the opportunity to complete a seven week lunchtime Spanish course in the Spring Term. In the last year, we have also entered students for the "Foreign Languages Spelling Bee", "Tour De France Challenge" and the "Mother Tongue-Other Tongue" poetry competition.

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