



IB Ab Initio Spanish Upper 6th

Curriculum Intent

The Spanish department seeks to develop ambitious and resilient linguists who recognise their common humanity and strive to gain inter-cultural understanding and respect.

We aim to provide an understanding of Spanish in a range of themes from social changes, global issues and history which enables students to communicate effectively in authentic situations on their exchange visits and prepared for the challenges of developing the language at a higher level and with an aspiration to continue the language at University or to at least see its value in their future career paths. We intend develop our students to be inquisitive and curious about Hispanic cultures, knowledgeable and understanding, open-minded and courageous as they personally develop through their learning of Spanish.

El que lee mucho y anda mucho, ve mucho y sabe mucho - Miguel de Cervantes
He who reads a lot, walks a lot, sees a lots and knows a lot.

Students will learn:

In Upper Sixth we dive deeper into the 5 IB prescribed themes:

- Identities
 - Mental Health
 - Beliefs & values
 - Subcultures
 - Language & identity
- Experiences
 - Holidays & travel
 - Rites of passage
 - Customs & traditions
 - Migration
- Human ingenuity
 - Communication & media
 - Technology
- Social organization
 - Social engagement
 - Education in Latin America
 - The working world
 - Law & order
- Sharing the planet
 - Human rights
 - Equality
 - Urban & rural environment

Film study – Diarios de motocicleta

Literature/cultural study – Un día en Buenos Aires

Knowledge, understanding & Skills

- To extend our vocabulary and grammatical understanding.
- To understand and evaluate a wide variety of written and spoken authentic personal, professional and mass media texts.
- To speak and write confidently with a purpose, in order to meet a wide range of communicative needs: describing, narrating, comparing, explaining, persuading, justifying, evaluating.
- To demonstrate an extensive knowledge of Hispanic culture and make cultural comparisons.
- To use a variety of strategies to maintain the flow of conversations and discussions on a variety of topics.
- To continue to develop knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, as well as conceptual understanding of how language works.
- To develop deeper thinking through TOK Questions.

How will we assess impact?

Our teaching encourages regular learning of key vocabulary and refinement of grammatical structures that are tested regularly. Translation skills are honed via weekly 10-point tests. Teachers assess pupils less formally in class via the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Pupils work collaboratively in pairs and groups to constantly improve their speaking skills, providing peer feedback.

Each half-term pupils take an assessment in test conditions during lesson time. In January of the Upper Sixth pupils take a full IB-style examination, which helps to predict their final grade as accurately as possible and to offer the students an opportunity to experience the speed and attention to detail required in the examination. Speaking examinations take place in February/March in which students explore the themes and cultures covered.



How can you enhance your learning at home?

- Memrise
- Quizlet
- Conjuguemos
- Languagesonline
- Cambridge elevate
- Flipped learning
- Essay bank
- Zigzag resources
- “Un dia en...” story stories
- PADLET
- Panorama Hispanohablante course book
- William Tweed Resources library

What does excellence look like?

- Extensive knowledge of vocabulary
- Confident use of Target Language
- Accurate use of a range of grammatical structures
- Detailed, logical arguments and conclusions that consistently link
- Consistent variation of grammatical structures, including in use of complex language, producing consistently articulate writing
- Consistently varied use of vocabulary, allowing ideas to be conveyed in a variety of different ways
- Accurate language throughout resulting in consistently coherent writing and speech for a range of purposes
- Any errors do not hinder clarity of communication

International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

Options for visits to Spain in the Upper Sixth are more limited. Our Upper Sixth students act as ambassadors for our visits programme, encouraging younger students to be brave and to grab the opportunity to stay with a Spanish-speaking family or to undertake work experience abroad.

Within the curriculum

- 1-1 Speaking sessions with a Native Speaker to develop speaking skills and cultural understanding.
- Film and literature studies.
- Use of authentic materials to provide an immersion into the Target Language and culture.
- An exploration of the Hispanic world through all themes studied e.g. Festivals, Education in Latin America and Global problems.

Wider Reading

- Elgancho.es
- Prácticaspanol.com
- El mundo
- El país
- Muyinteresante.es
- Un dia en Madrid/Buenos Aires/La Havana series.
- A load of Bull, Tim Parfitt
- A woman unknown, Lucia Graves
- The Ghosts of Spain's past, Giles Tremlett
- The New Spaniards, John Hopper



Si hablas a una persona en la lengua que entiende, las palabras irán a su cabeza. Si le hablas en su propia lengua, las palabras irán a su corazón.

Nelson Mandela

If you talk to a person in a language they understand, the words go to the head. If you talk to them in their own language, the words go to their heart.