



German A level – L6

Curriculum Intent

The German 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 German 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 be 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 to develop our students to be inquisitive and curious about German-speaking cultures, knowledgeable and understanding, open-minded and courageous as they personally develop through their learning of German.

„Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenzen meiner Welt,“ Ludwig Wittgenstein

Students will learn:

A level grammatical structures such as Konjunktiv and the passive voice

Theme 1: The evolution of German society

- Nature and environment
- Education
- World of work

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture of the German speaking world

- Music
- Media
- The role of festivals and traditions

Film study:

Das Leben der Anderen (2006) – Florian Henkel von Donnersmarck.

Knowledge, understanding & Skills

- Vocabulary of themes covered
- Response to spoken text in writing, showing understanding of the main points, gist and detail.
- Response to written text in writing and speaking.
- Summary of a spoken text in writing.
- Translation into and from German
- Discussion on a theme showing knowledge and understanding of the target language context and culture.
- Developing an argument and reaching a logical conclusion.
- Expressing viewpoints and justifying opinions.
- Use of appropriate literary and film vocabulary.
- Relating the work to key concepts, issues and the social context and writing a critical response.

How can you enhance your learning at home?

- All students have access to a German Sixth Form Padlet with a wealth of online resources such as Deutsche Welle, Goethe Institut, Spiegel.de and Grimm Grammar.
- Dynamic learning
- Flipped learning
- Essay bank
- Zigzag resources for reading and listening comprehensions
- Translation tasks
- Scene analysis
- Hodder Edexcel A level textbook
- Hodder Study Guide – Das Leben der Anderen
- Oxford A level German translation workbook
- William Tweed Resources Library

What does excellence look like?

- Confident and accurate use of German with varied vocabulary and structures, including complex language.
- Critical analysis of issues, themes and cultural or social contexts demonstrated through convincing interpretations.
- Consistent use of evidence to justify points of view.
- Detailed, logical arguments and conclusions that consistently link.

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 June of the Lower Sixth pupils take a full-length A level-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. Students control the audio themselves for listening, within a set time limit.



International Opportunities

Visits Programme

In the Spring term of the Lower Sixth, all pupils must complete a work experience placement. We offer all students of German the opportunity to undertake a two-week work placement in Frankfurt. Previous work placements have included primary schools, shops and restaurants. Pupils stay with a family to give them the maximum opportunity to improve their language skills and to better understand the culture.

This is an exchange programme so each students' partner also stays here for two weeks, whilst completing their own work placement.

Within the curriculum

The German A level curriculum is designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of German-speaking culture. Themes 1, 3 & 4 focus on Germany and Theme 2 is about the music, media and festivals and traditions from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Students are encouraged to research each theme independently to ensure that they can draw on a wide knowledge of the culture and society.

