



German A level – U6

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:

Theme 3: Immigration and the multicultural German society

- Positive effects of immigrations
- Challenges of immigration and integration
- State and social response to immigration

Theme 4: The reunification of Germany

- Society in the GDR before the reunification
- Events before the reunification
- Germany since the reunification

Literature study:

- Der Vorleser (1995) – Bernhard Schlink

Independent Research Project:

- Develop research skills and cultural understanding through the Independent Research Project

Revision of first year themes and film study

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.

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.

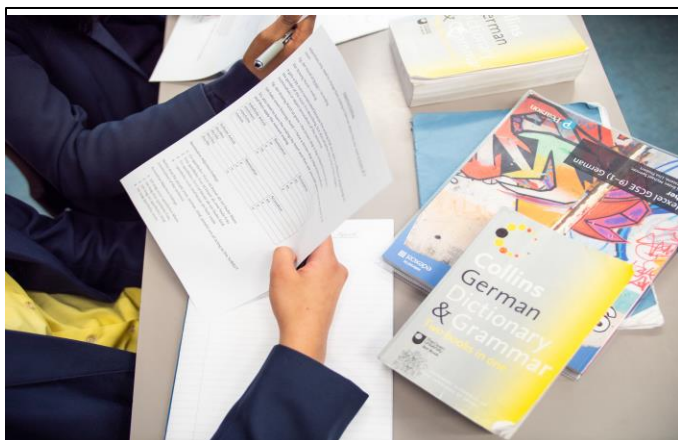
How can you enhance your learning at home?

- 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 – Der Vorleser
- Oxford A level German translation workbook
- William Tweed Resources Library

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 Upper 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. All pupils have a full-length mock A level speaking examination to help to prepare them for the real assessment.



International Opportunities

Visits Programme

Options for visits to Germany 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 German-speaking family or to undertake work experience abroad.

Many of our German A level students took part in the long-term visit to Frankfurt in year 10 or the work experience visit in the Lower Sixth and continue to meet their partners for years to come!

There is an opportunity for an A level Literature & Film Study Day, in London.



Within the curriculum

The second year of the German A level curriculum continues to deepen understanding and appreciation of German-speaking culture, via the study of the themes and the Independent Research Project. Previous topics have included the Nuclear Power Phase-out, the Bauhaus movement and Ostalgie (nostalgia for life in former East Germany).

Students add to research from the first year to ensure that they can draw on a wide knowledge of the culture and society in the final speaking examination, and to deepen their vocabulary.

