



A Level Russian Upper 6th

Curriculum Intent

The Russian 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 Russian in a range of themes from social changes, global issues and history which enable students to communicate effectively in authentic situations and are 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 culture, knowledgeable and understanding, open-minded and courageous as they personally develop through their learning of Russian.

Edmund de Waal — "With languages, you are at home anywhere."

Students will learn:-

- Grammar in context through translation.

Final 2 A Level Themes:

- Life in Moscow & St. Petersburg
 - Population changes
 - Social issues
 - Environment
- The last years of the USSR
 - Perestroika
 - Glasnost
 - 1991 – the demise and collapse of the USSR.
- Literature study – Queen of Spades by Alexander Pushkin
- Independent Research Project (IRP)

Knowledge, understanding & Skills

- An extensive range of vocabulary relevant to the themes studied.
- A deepened understanding of the key grammatical elements.
- Response to written and spoken text in writing and speaking, showing understanding of the main points, gist and detail.
- Accurate translation into and from Russian.
- Discussion on themes showing knowledge and understanding of the target language context and culture.
- Expressing viewpoints and justifying opinions.
- Effectively developing an argument and reaching a logical conclusion.
- Critically analyse the works of film & literature with well-chosen evidence.
- Evaluating the form or techniques used in the work.
- Developing logical arguments to persuade.
- Relating the work to key concepts, issues and the social context
- Researching and critically exploring elements of the Target Language culture.

How can you enhance your learning at home?

- Memrise
- Quizlet
- Flipped learning
- You Tube
- <http://iamruss.ru/rossiya-v-tsifrah-infografika/>
- learnrussian.rt.com
- globaldimension.org.uk
- russianforeveryone.com
- russianforfree.com
- William Tweed Resources Library
- PADLET

What does excellence look like?

- Deep understanding of language and grammar.
- Confident use of Target Language
- Accurate use of a range of complex grammatical structures
- Critical analysis of issues/themes/cultural or social contexts demonstrated through convincing interpretations and points of view, consistently justified with appropriately selected evidence.
- 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.
- Consistent use of terminology appropriate to literary and cinematic analysis.
- Any errors do not hinder clarity of communication.

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-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. Both the writing and reading papers also assess the students' ability to accurately translate, the written paper also requires the students to write two critically analytical essays on the literature and film studies they have completed. The speaking examination focuses on an exploration of one of the themes studied and the Independent Research Project.

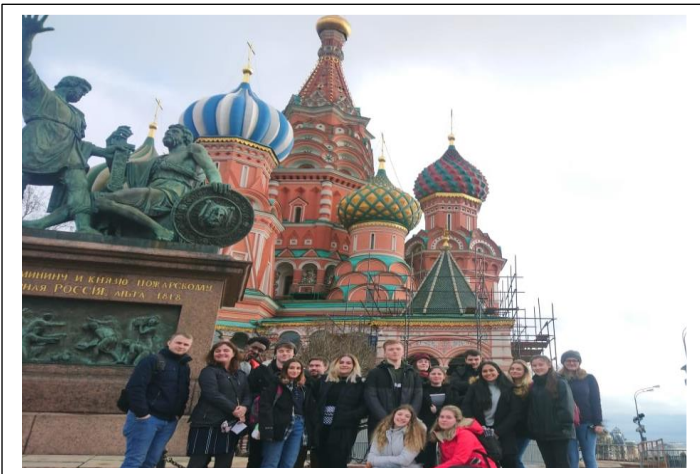
International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

- Students who have participated on the Lower 6th study visit to Russian will be encouraged to share their experiences with other students in assemblies.
- University visits and potential cultural day visits may be arranged.

Within the curriculum

- The curriculum is designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of Russian culture and customs.
- Students are encouraged to research each theme beyond lessons and set work to ensure that they can draw on a wide knowledge of the culture and society.
- 1-1 speaking sessions with a Native Speaker to develop speaking skills and cultural understanding.



Wider Reading

Russian culture & customs

<https://www.livescience.com/44154-russian-culture.html>

The Penguin History of Modern Russia – Robert Service

Russian Short Stories – Simple language learning

“Новый язык - это новая жизнь.”

Czech proverb

“A new language is a new life.”