



Spanish A level – U6

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 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 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:

Grammar teaching through translation.

Immigration and multicultural Spain

- Immigration in Spain
- Arabic influences
- Challenges
- Multiculturalism
- Future of Spain

Dictatorship and transition

- The Civil war
- Life under Franco
- Democracy
- Adolfo Suarez
- First elections 1977
- Spain today

Revision of first year themes and film study

Literature study – Como Agua para Chocolate – Laura Esquivel

What does excellence look like?

- Confident and accurate use of Spanish 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 Spanish.
- 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 Spanish Sixth Form Padlet with a wealth of online resources such as Conjuguemos, ElGancho.es, El Mundo, El País and Myinterestante.es
- 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 – Como Agua para Chocolate
- Oxford A level Spanish 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 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.

Many of our Spanish A level students took part in the long-term visit in year 10 or the work experience visit to Madrid 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 Spanish A level curriculum continues to deepen understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture, via the study of the themes and the Independent Research Project. Previous topics have included Beauty Pageants in Venezuela, Latinos in Hollywood and Women under Franco.

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.

