



## MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

French, German and Spanish are the languages taught at St. Margaret's School. French is the first language, taught to all girls in Years 7-9. After taster lessons in Year 7, in Year 8 girls choose either German or Spanish as their second language. From Year 10 all pupils continue studying one language to GCSE. Some opt to study both languages. All languages are offered at AS/A2 level. Girls achieve very good results in public examinations, at GCSE mostly A\*-B and at A2 mostly A-C.

Language learning is popular at St. Margaret's School. Girls enjoy lively lessons, engaging them in a variety of stimulating and challenging activities. In French the main coursebook used up to GCSE is currently *Clic* and for AS/A2 level it is *Elan/AQA French*. In Spanish we use *Listos* at KS3/4 & *AQA Spanish* at As/A2 level. In German the course books are *Klasse, Echo & Zeitgeist*. However, the department benefits from a wide range of resources in print, audio, video/DVD & ICT software, which we use to supplement and vary our teaching materials. Our 4 teaching rooms are all equipped with data projectors and a computer. In addition, one classroom has an interactive whiteboard and another is equipped with a 12 station language laboratory using cassette/CD/DVD. The room timetable is arranged so that we share access to these facilities.

There are 5 teachers in the MFL department, 3 full time and 2 part time, all double linguists. We also have assistants in all 3 languages. We are a strong, supportive team used to sharing ideas and resources. All of us contribute towards joint departmental activities and we share our enthusiasm for language learning with our pupils not just in lessons. In the past we have organised whole school events for the European Day of Languages or have entered various competitions. We hold weekly departmental meetings and regularly attend relevant Inset courses. We share an office in the teaching block where we each have a desk and access to a networked computer.

The department runs a comprehensive programme of visits for all 3 languages, which take place during the school holidays:

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|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| • France  | Year 7     | Château de la Baudonnière, Normandy  | annually   |
| • Germany | Year 8/9   | Boppard, Rhine Valley                | biennially |
| • Spain   | Year 9/10  | Salamanca, Homestay                  | biennially |
| • Germany | Year 9/10  | Urspringschule Ulm, Exchange         | biennially |
| • France  | Year 10-13 | Paris, Homestay                      | biennially |
| • Germany | Year 12/13 | Düsseldorf, Work Experience Exchange | annually   |

Our girls enjoy the cultural and linguistic experiences provided by these visits and they are often oversubscribed. Every member of the department accompanies at least one trip every year.