

## Languages at Bolingbroke – Our DNA

*Working up the courage to say just one phrase can be nerve racking but really builds confidence and resilience. **We believe that all students benefit from exposure to a Modern Foreign Language.** The acquisition of a new language is in itself highly valued, but importantly it also provides insight into other cultures. Language learning promotes curiosity and greater awareness in our students, making for more open-minded citizens who can better reflect on their own first language and the country they live in. Practically, in lessons we learn a range of transferable skills alongside the language itself.*

### **Courageous**

In the MFL classroom we consistently emphasise that it is OK to make mistakes and aim to increase resilience. This open environment allows students to grow in confidence and be their best self. Speaking out in front of the class is encouraged but we acknowledge that it can be intimidating and requires students to be brave. We also provide learners with opportunities to practise on mini-whiteboards; allowing for mistakes to be easily corrected. With skilled linguists in the department, we endeavour to challenge our students by using the target language effectively. It is also one of our department aims to encourage students to use the target language with each other through engaging pair and group work. Both elements of using the target language ensure that students are hearing authentic language each time they are in, and also outside the MFL classroom.

### **Compassionate**

Alongside the structures and grammar, each topic contains references to Francophone and Hispanic culture from year 7 to 13. By learning about language and other cultures, we hope students will also increase their awareness of the world around them. In A Level lessons, for example, we encourage academic discussion and independent research on the history, literature, cinema, economics and social issues. We believe any opportunity to interpret the ever-changing world in which we live promotes adaptability and will help students to be successful in both their career and personal choices. Our curriculum demonstrates that with the correct planning and scaffolding, it is perfectly possible to tackle thought provoking questions at KS3 such as colonisation in Latin America or laïcité in France.

### **Community**

Every short term, the whole school community will be invited to participate in our MFL competition. We want students to get stuck in and also have fun with languages outside of the classroom. Each competition crosses over into a different domain or subject (art, cooking, humanities, creative writing, etc.) to reinforce the cross-curricular nature of language study and cater for all our students' interests and skill sets. For European Day of Languages, the whole school will get involved to celebrate the wealth of languages spoken at our school. Native speakers are supported by the department in gaining a qualification in their home language and are encouraged to share their knowledge with classmates. For example, through the languages club which provides opportunities for students to show independence and leadership.

### **Empowering Excellence**

To improve student fluency and accuracy, we wish to focus on embedding structures and chunks of language rather than list after list of topical vocabulary. Students will practise and drill a set of new structures at length with increased attention to phonics and pronunciation so that they have the knowledge and confidence to communicate in the language they are learning. The curriculum plans for opportunities to routinely recycle and revisit these key structures within different contexts and topics. We are committed to monitoring student work to ensure excellent progress. We use the new Education Perfect platform, mastery quizzes and exit tickets as lesson to lesson data to inform our teaching. We provide effective fast feedback and students will be allocated time within lessons to reflect on the learning points that apply to them, before redrafting a section of their work. Our curriculum maps and careful planning as a department enables students right from Year 7 to make rapid progress towards their GCSE. We strive to maintain our exceptional high outcomes and are proud of our students' success.