



## Modern Foreign Languages : Our DNA

**Head of Department: Dr Vazquez-Lopez**

The Bolingbroke Academy MFL department is committed to broadening pupils' understanding of the world and developing strong, life-long, linguistic skills. Along with learning new topics, reinforcing knowledge every lesson is the key aspect of learning a language: we give pupils plenty of opportunity to practise and therefore remember key vocabulary through each of the 4 skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading. This is the first step towards becoming independent as a language learner and therefore creative with the target language. Through engagement with the Academy Teaching and Learning policy and CPD we ensure our staff have the tools to deliver great MFL lessons which are engaging and allow all pupils to progress to their target grade and beyond.

- **MFL team:** The Bolingbroke Academy MFL Department is a dynamic, enthusiastic mutually-supported department. A collaborative and communicative approach to language teaching and learning is embedded within our practice as timetabled weekly co-planning sessions. The department endeavours to make learning languages fun and meaningful, providing pupils with many opportunities for collaboration and independent work in each lesson.
- **Teaching and Learning (TL):** We are committed to engage with pupils' books on a regular basis, using vocab tests, mastery quizzes and exit tickets as lesson to lesson data to monitor and act on progress. We then provide effective fast feedback every three weeks through the use of a list of learning points characterised as **What Went Well** and **Even Better If** drawn from the work of the whole class. Pupils will be allocated time within lessons and homework tasks to reflect and to identify the learning points that apply to them, before redrafting the relevant section of their work in green pen. Homework is used both as preparation for the coming lesson, and to reinforce class work. Our careful planning as a department enables pupils 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.
- **Sixth Form:** We encourage strong linguists in Sixth Form to take a Language as part of their career-orientated portfolio of subjects. Languages qualifications are always highly-regarded by employers for whom they evince the ability of a student to access another culture, together with the ability to accrue, to order and to reproduce in a meaningful way, large amounts of new information. Likewise, choosing to study a foreign language at A level will not only provide you with a solid academic background but also will open doors to top universities. At Sixth Form we provide innovative lessons that enable communication in the target language through the debate of current affairs and by identifying links with other curricular subjects. In A Level lessons, for example, we encourage academic discussion and independent research on the history, literature, cinema, economics and social issues of Spanish/French/German-speaking countries. 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.

- **Use of TL:** With skilled linguists in the department, we endeavour to challenge our pupils by using the target language effectively. It is also one of our department aims to encourage pupils to use the target language with each other in pair and group work. Both elements of using the target language ensure that pupils are hearing authentic language each time they are in, and also outside the MFL classroom.
- **Developing pupils' creativity:** We believe that becoming confident with a language is a springboard to creativity both in and out the classroom. Within the classroom, we encourage pupils to take part in role plays entirely in the target language, or pupils work independently to challenge their writing skills. Outside the classroom, we also encourage at least one creative piece of homework per half term, where pupils have the time to develop their knowledge and cross-curricular skills and to design impressive projects.
- **Reflective learners:** Within the MFL classroom, we consistently emphasise that it is OK to make mistakes. We believe pupils learn when they understand where misconceptions lie and they re-practise the content taught in order to move on from these errors. This open environment allows pupils to grow in confidence and not feel intimidated in speaking out in front of the class. We also provide learners with opportunities to practise on mini-whiteboards; allowing for mistakes to be easily corrected.
- **Broaden their cultural references:** Providing opportunities to promote inter-cultural understanding is a vital element of language learning. We are therefore committed to ensuring that each topic contains elements of cultural reference to not only the target language country, but the wider Francophone, Hispanic or Germanic spheres. We additionally offer overseas educational visits and exchange programmes.
- **British Values:** By learning about other cultures, children will be able to identify and explore what British Values are – where we are similar and different to other countries. We also promote opportunities for pupils to take part in school trips, be it in London at language or cultural institutes, or in exchange trips overseas.