



Modern Foreign Languages Faculty Curriculum Overview

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.' – Nelson Mandela

Intent of the Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum

Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work, therefore the study of Modern Foreign Languages at Biddick Academy is as an integral part of our students' education. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment. Through language study, students learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people and develop an ability to understand and communicate in another language. This is not only a lifelong skill for education but also for employment and leisure in both this country and throughout the world. In today's world, knowledge of a foreign language is often very useful and sometimes essential. As well as developing a love and understanding of different languages and cultures, we aim to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to compete successfully when searching for employment as well as opening doors to a vast network of international opportunities.

The Implementation of the Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum

The Reading and Listening Hourglass is our approach to learning languages at Biddick Academy. This approach involves the delivery of languages through the skills of listening and reading so that students are able to produce extended writing and speaking spontaneously. Our ambition in the use of more challenging texts means that students are more stretched and rewarded. Students are presented with a very detailed key text at the start of a new module and use their existing knowledge to unpick it, learn new vocabulary and grammatical points with the ultimate goal of themselves producing a similarly detailed piece of writing in the target language. The impact on progress using this approach to implementation has been significant and students are now able to produce extended writing and speaking with greater accuracy and complexity than before.

Key Stage Progression

Our MFL programme in KS3 aims to prepare students for high achievement in the next stages of their learning. Students study either French or Spanish and continue with the language until the end of Year 9 when they choose their options for GCSE. It is a skill-based course centering on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, taught through the medium of the chosen topics for each academic term.

Where possible, students build on their prior learning in KS2, building on their awareness of phonics and language learning skills as well as Cultural Capital, broadening their awareness of the world around them. Planning for the new GCSE linear examination shows clear development of topics already introduced in Years 7 to 9. This development includes a greater depth of study to the three central themes in both content and language.

The Impact of the Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum

Language students at Biddick Academy will develop a deep understanding of linguistic and grammatical knowledge and skills, as well as a broadened understanding of and respect for different cultures across the world. Students will have a deeper knowledge and understanding of the English language and improved Literacy skills as a result of forensic study of a foreign language. Students will develop higher order thinking skills such as reasoning, deducing and inference which will support students in a number of different subjects. Students will gain a skill which is not only valuable, sometimes essential, when applying for University and other forms of Higher Education but also which enables you to travel and communicate with people from a variety of cultures.