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Biddick
Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer,

The MFL faculty have put together a list of top tips and websites to use at home to support your child's learning in MFL. In addition to their lessons, students are set weekly homework to consolidate what we do in class. There are also twice weekly lunch time sessions that run on Tuesday and Wednesday, so students can get help with homework or learning in MFL. Students also have regular opportunities to participate in extracurricular challenges in MFL, as well as their being a weekly German and Italian club.

Supporting your child with MFL – Top tips

1. Test them on their vocabulary lists. There are a host of ways to learn vocab: using flash cards, sticking post-it notes around the house, grouping words by gender, listing them alphabetically or thematically, making excel spreadsheets and hiding columns. You can test them regularly, sharing the journey to learn new words yourself and helping them find their most effective way to learn.
2. Once they believe they have grasped the formation of a new tense or some new vocabulary, get them to teach it to you.
3. Use the free Duolingo app to progress with them with some healthy competition! Duolingo is a great tool for learning other languages too!
4. Encourage them to speak the language as much as possible. Practicing their accent and pronunciation at home will give them more confidence in class.
5. Watch TV in the language being learnt. Using the language for real purposes could include watching a French or Spanish version of a film or TV series on Netflix/Prime etc. Look if the language being learnt is an alternative setting on their favourite films, they can watch them again with you in the foreign language with English subtitles. You'll be surprised how much extra language they pick up.
6. Tap into their interests by encouraging them to listen to music in the foreign language. They can find the lyrics on Google and follow them whilst listening and join in.
7. For success at GCSE, your child will need strong opinions on areas such as school uniform, healthy living, the environment and friends vs. family. Ultimately, they need to have opinions on things and this is of wider importance for their education. They can watch TED talks (with subtitles in the language they're learning) or read online newspapers.

Useful websites:

www.pearsonactivelearn.com – website where MFL homework is set each week. Students have their own usernames and passwords

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize - lots of practice material in all 4 skill areas in French and Spanish

www.languagesonline.com – excellent site for practicing grammar points

www.verbix.com – for verb conjugations in every tense

www.wordreference.com – online dictionary site

<https://quizlet.com/en-gb> - great for practicing vocabulary. Students have details of how to access this in their planners

<https://app.senecalearning.com> – lots of free practice materials in French and Spanish

<https://app.memrise.com> – another vocabulary learning site

<https://lyricstraining.com> – great website for practising listening skills using songs

We hope that you have found this guide useful. Should you have any questions around lessons and homework in MFL, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Lessels | Faculty Leader of Modern Foreign Languages