



A levels in Modern Foreign Languages

Who is this course for?

AS/A language courses are for serious linguists and not for the fainthearted. They require students who are determined to learn new vocabulary and grammatical items on a daily basis and who have a passion for the language. You need to be an excellent communicator and not afraid of giving your own opinions and justifying them. If you are interested in other countries and cultures and want to manipulate the target language effectively so that you are understood, then you will enjoy the necessary hard work and commitment a language course demands.

What are the entry criteria?

You need at least a grade B at GCSE level in the appropriate language and an average GCSE score of 5.00 or above, ideally with a high grade in English.

The MFL department at Wyke Sixth Form College

The MFL department at Wyke College offers AS and A level courses in French, German and Spanish. The department consists of three experienced language specialists, one for each of the languages offered, and three Foreign Language Assistants, who are all native speakers. The six staff work closely together to provide a vibrant, fast-paced linguistic experience in a welcoming and reassuring environment. There are two main teaching rooms for languages, and half of the lessons on each course take place in the language laboratory, where listening skills are developed and exam-type exercises are provided through the online resource 'kerboodle'.

As a department we all agree that the best way to learn a language is to immerse yourself in it. Living in the country of the language you are studying would be ideal, but the next best thing is to travel abroad. We encourage you to take part in cultural and work experience exchanges to Malmedy in Belgium, Barntrup in Germany and Gijon in Spain.

The MFL staff team is:

- ❖ Janet Wynn (Head of Department/ German specialist)
- ❖ Nicola Johnstone (French specialist)
- ❖ Joyce Cochrane (Spanish specialist)

We also have 3 Assistants who change annually

Exam Board

At Wyke we use the AQA specification. This consists of 4 units.

Course Details

AS level language courses

The language skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening will be developed as will knowledge and use of grammar in this topic based course.

The Media

Television – Advertising – Communication Technology

Popular Culture

Music – Cinema – Fashion

Healthy Living

Sport and Fitness – Health and Lifestyle – Holidays

Family and Relationships

Family – Friendship – Marriage and partnership

Summer exams

AS Unit 1 *Listening, Reading and Writing* 70% of AS
A mixed skills paper. -2 hour written examination.

AS Unit 2 *Speaking Test* 30% of AS

Discussion of a stimulus card and conversation.

35 minutes (15 minutes speaking and 20 minute preparation time)

A2 language courses

The key language skills are developed further at this level. Both social and cultural topics are studied.

Social topics

Environment

Pollution – Energy – Protecting the planet

Multicultural society

Immigration – Integration – Racism

Contemporary social issues

Wealth and poverty – Law and order – Science and Technology

Cultural topics

The work of a film director

The work of a novelist or playwright

Summer exams

Unit 3 *Listening, Reading and Writing* 35% of A level
A mixed skills paper – 2 hours 30 minutes written examination

Unit 4 *Speaking Test* 15% of A level

Discussion of a stimulus card and conversation -15 mins speaking/20 mins preparation

How the course is delivered

Most of your lessons will be delivered in the target language i.e French, German or Spanish and half of them will take place in the language laboratory where online resources are often used. As well as 4x70 minutes lessons with your specialist teacher, you will have a 30 minute session with the Foreign Language Assistant each week. Topic booklets, based on the AQA recommended texts and materials, are issued throughout the course to every student.

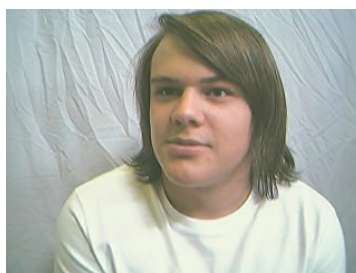
Departmental Enrichment

Trips and exchanges abroad are offered to all language students at Wyke, to develop linguistic, cultural and personal skills and offer the opportunity of taking part in work experience placements. The exchanges to Malmedy in Belgium and Barntrop in Germany have both been running for over twenty years whereas the trip to Gijon in Spain is relatively new. All these exchanges, run by experienced staff, offer a packed programme of cultural, educational and social events.

Closer to home, staff arrange for students to attend special Language Days and revision sessions at Hull University plus local film and theatre events.

Student success

With excellent pass rates (100% at A2), the department has helped many students achieve excellent grades and move on to further education or employment and personal success



Jon Hemingway

Former school: Kelvin Hall

A level German result: B

Where is he now?
Jon has a degree in German
and Business and is
working as the 'German expert'
for an international company in Leeds.

What does this course lead to?

Studying languages can open up a wealth of opportunities. It can mean working in the more obvious fields such as translating, interpreting, tourism or teaching, but also in sales, marketing, law, journalism, IT and public relations, where a language, often combined with another expertise, really opens up doors for you!

All careers in the future will require language skills to cope with the global market place, international trade and e-commerce. The web has made access to other countries and markets much easier, so effective communication with potential clients is vital for online companies. Language skills give students cross cultural competence, enhanced employability and a lifelong skill. To employers they give added value, access to new clients and markets, high level communication skills, a wider perspective, open mindedness and a sensitivity to other cultures.

French, German and Spanish are the top three business languages in demand in the UK today!

What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

You must have exposure to the target language wherever possible. If you get the opportunity to travel abroad or talk to people from French, German or Spanish speaking countries, take it. Watch films or listen to music in the target language, read newspapers, magazines, books and websites and look at the BBC language courses online. Vocabulary and grammar are vital, so learn little and often, and really try to develop the habit of language learning.

Ensure you know the key verbs, such as 'to have' and 'to be' and the forms of these and other common verbs in the present, perfect and future tenses. Use www.languagesonline.org to practice.

Make for yourself a list of 20 expression phrases e.g. In my opinion, I think, I'm not convinced and so on and learn them, so they can be used when you give your views on any topic.

