

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES GCSE

(FRENCH AND GERMAN)

At BCCS we offer GCSE French and German. Students are welcome to opt for either or both languages – we have a good number of students who choose both French and German at this level and even continue both to A-level. Language groups tend to be smaller than Key Stage 3 classes and we have the benefit of Foreign Language Assistants for both languages to support the language-learning.

Throughout the course we aim to develop:

- an understanding of French/German in a variety of contexts
- a knowledge of French/German vocabulary and structures
- transferable language learning skills
- the ability to communicate effectively in French/German
- an awareness and understanding of countries and communities where French/German is spoken.
- skills for those students wishing to further their language qualifications to AS and A Level.

Course Details

Students are required to:

- develop the ability to listen to and understand the spoken language in a range of contexts and a variety of styles
- communicate in speech for a variety of purposes
- read and respond to different types of written language
- communicate in writing for a variety of purposes
- understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures
- develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly.

Writing & Speaking skills are assessed as coursework:

Speaking (30%)

The focus of the speaking unit will be chosen by the teacher in consultation with the student. This unit is internally assessed under controlled conditions.

Students must demonstrate the ability to use their language in two different conversations, and will be assessed on two speaking activities, which have been prepared during lesson time and at home.

Each activity will last for 4-6 minutes. These controlled speaking assessments can be carried out at any time during the course.

Writing (30%)

The focus of the writing unit will be chosen by the teacher in consultation with the student. This unit is internally conducted under controlled conditions and assessed externally.

The student must demonstrate the ability to use the language in two different assessment tasks.

The student must complete two separate writing tasks and each of these must be undertaken in controlled conditions in a single assessment session of no more than one hour. Students aiming for grade C or above will need to demonstrate extended writing skills and are expected to produce a minimum of 200 words in each task.

Listening & Reading are assessed as terminal examinations:

Listening: 20%

Students will be tested on their ability to understand spoken language. Testing is through a variety of tasks which require a response, written or non-verbal, to demonstrate understanding. The examination consists of a number of passages or interactions in French/German with a variety of question types.

Timing: Foundation Tier: 30 minutes or Higher Tier: 40minutes

Reading: 20%

Students will be tested on their ability to understand written language. Testing is through a variety of tasks which require a response, written or non-verbal, to demonstrate understanding. The examination consists of a number of short texts, notices or news reports in French/German which includes a range of settings and styles (eg text messages, advertisements, emails).

Timing: Foundation tier: 35 minutes or Higher tier: 50 minutes

Topics generally expand and develop those studied at Key Stage 3:

- Lifestyle: health, relationships and choices
- Leisure: free time and the media
- Home and environment: home and local area, environment
- Work and education: school/college and future plans, current and future jobs.

Exam Board: AQA 46651

Enquiries to J French

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