

GCSE French/German/Mandarin/Spanish

How much speaking is involved?

The 4 skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing are each 25% of the course. You will be expected to speak in class, in pairs, small groups and to the whole class. For most students, being able to speak the language is one of the best parts.

Are the exams in tiers?

There are Foundation and Higher tiers in MFL. If you take the Foundation tier, you can be awarded up to grade 5. Higher tier is grade 4 – 9. Your teacher will choose the correct tier for you.

Can I still take a language at GCSE if I have only done a Masterclass?

In the past, students have taken a Masterclass in Year 8 and 9, chosen the language at GCSE and then gone on to take the subject at A level and even at university. If you are keen and prepared to work, there is no problem in doing this.

Do I have to be in top set to take a language at GCSE?

Definitely not! We have students from sets 1 – 5 taking a GCSE in MFL. The most important thing is that you enjoy languages and are prepared to work. We talk about “learning a language” for a reason: you will have grammar and vocabulary to learn. You will be doing speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks. As long as you are ready for this, you will enjoy studying a language.

How can I use languages after school?

With a language at GCSE, you are more attractive to an employer. There are jobs in the travel industry, fashion, music, retail and banking where having a language is a real advantage. There are languages apprenticeships available. Also, universities generally like to see that students have taken a language at GCSE level. It shows you have a broad range of skills.