

Westcliff High School for Girls

Modern Foreign Languages Department

We have six specialist teachers including the Head of Department, all of whom are graduate linguists.

The Modern Foreign Languages department has good facilities, including a suite of four classrooms equipped with interactive boards. The Modern Foreign Languages Office has a separate working area for each teacher and the department has ample computer access.

All pupils study either French or Spanish in Year 7, for 6 lessons per fortnight. In Year 8 pupils continue with the language they started in year 7, and begin the second language. The school operates a three year Key Stage 4 course with all pupils choosing at least one language to continue with at the end of Year 8. Each year we have a number of students who choose to take both French and Spanish at GCSE.

It is the policy of the department to deliver KS3 and KS4 lessons using a mixture of traditional grammar teaching and innovative teaching and learning strategies. Students follow the Studio course in French and in Spanish students follow the Mira Express course. At GCSE students follow the Edexcel Specification and use the Higher level Viva and Studio Edexcel textbooks to supplement teaching.

At Advanced Level, students also follow the Edexcel course and a number of students from other schools join the school's sixth form and study a Modern Foreign Language. Each year several A Level students go on to study Modern Foreign Languages at university.

The school welcomes a French and a Spanish language assistant each year from the British Council FLA scheme, who work with sixth formers in preparation for their oral examinations, and support teachers in class with speaking activities. We have a range of competitions throughout the year and lunch time activities to enrich learning.

There are also residential, educational trips arranged for students to France and Spain, which have proved very beneficial and popular, including a French Exchange.

We are a cohesive and hard-working team. We have high academic expectations and encourage independent learning in all our students.