



MFL Department 2015

The Modern Foreign Languages department at Rainford High Technology College currently consists of 4 full-time and 1 part-time linguists. All staff are deeply committed to promoting the learning of foreign languages and developing the inter-cultural understanding of all students.

Under the direction of a new Head of Department from September 2014, the department is committed to providing extra opportunities for language learning and enhancing the status of languages within the school. There is a wide and developing range of links with outside agencies, activities within school and visits and trips to Europe. These include clubs such as MFL film club, events such as European Day of Languages, cultural and linguistic visits to the Anfield Reducate Centre, links with local universities and trips to Barcelona and Paris and we expect to develop such activities further. All members of the department are particularly active in establishing links with other departments in the school to further cross-curricular developments.

French and Spanish are both taught throughout Key Stages 3 and 4. Staff teach across the age and ability range as appropriate to their qualifications and expertise in each language. Opportunity for professional development within the department is established and amply supported. Our philosophy and practice are based upon collaboration and sharing ideas and resources.

In the state-of-the-art new building, we have a suite of 4 specialist rooms, all of which have networked computers, smartboards and surround sound audio systems. In addition, there is a dedicated MFL computer suite to which each class has access on a fortnightly basis.

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 and 8, pupils learn Spanish and receive 2 x 50 minute lessons per a week. Pupils are taught in the same groups for Spanish, English, History and Technology, in a cluster system which aims to set by ability. In Year 9, all pupils continue to receive 2 x 50 minute Spanish lessons per a week and the top 4 sets are also introduced to French through 1 x 50 minute lesson a week.

A range of teaching and learning styles are used in order to promote pupil progress in the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Key Stage 4

Students are taught in ability sets, for 3 x 50 minute lessons a week. GCSE courses are offered for both Spanish and French, awarded by the WJEC Examination Board which currently involves two speaking controlled assessments and two writing controlled assessments in addition to two terminal examinations in reading and listening.

Key Stage 5

Students receive personalised learning in 5 x 50 minutes lessons a week. AS and A2 courses are offered in French and Spanish. In both languages we prepare students for the WJEC examinations, taken in the summer. We enter all A2 language students for the Film, Literature and Culture option.

Feb 15