

MODERN LANGUAGES

The Role of Modern Foreign Languages

Modern Languages make an important contribution to a broad and balanced curriculum for all students. Here at Blatchington Mill School our courses at Key Stage 3 are designed to develop the practical aspects of communication and we aim to develop students' skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. These practical skills are very useful when travelling abroad, whether on holiday or for work. Students will also learn about the basic structure of language. This will strengthen and improve their knowledge of English, as well as providing the foundations to learn other languages later in life. Study of a foreign language also helps students to understand and appreciate different countries and cultures. This is essential in the modern world, with its emphasis on international trade and communication.

Skills

While studying a foreign language our students will also develop essential skills for life. They will learn to:

- Work as part of a team
- Reflect on their own learning and become more effective learners
- Manage their time and work
- Participate effectively
- Process and evaluate information
- Think creatively

Curriculum Organisation

From 2010 we will be modifying the way the curriculum in Modern Languages is organised in Key Stage 3. French will no longer be the compulsory language in Key Stage 3. From September 2010 all students in Year 7 will learn ONE language – one of either French, Spanish OR German. This will be their main language for Key Stage 3 and will allow students to achieve high standards. Students, who make very rapid progress in their main language in Year 7, will be offered the opportunity to study a second language – French or Spanish – in Years 8 and 9. (The two-language course in Years 8 and 9 is a fast-track course.)

We will allocate a main language to each Year 7 tutor group. This will mean that students in each Year 7 tutor group will be taught together for their language lessons. This provides continuity and eases the transition to secondary school.

If any parents/carers have strong reasons for requesting a specific language for their son/daughter, we ask that you contact us. Either:

- Come along to the Languages Department in room C12 at the Prospective Parents' Evening OR
- Write to us c/o of Mrs Brightwell, Student Services at Blatchington Mill School before 31st March 2010.

We cannot guarantee to meet specific requests, as groupings will be dependent on staffing and student friendship groups.

CONTACTS IN SCHOOL

Mrs C Andrews

Curriculum Manager for Modern Languages