



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

What languages are offered at Highdown?

We offer French, Spanish and Mandarin at all key stages. We also currently run the Mandarin Excellence Programme, (MEP) in years 7 to 11. This programme aims to have students fluent in Mandarin by the time they complete year 11. Students have more curriculum time for the subject and have more home learning. They also have the opportunity to take part in 'intensive learning days' with students studying MEP from other schools.

How do students choose their language?

In year 7 students complete a 'taster carousel' of languages where they have four weeks of lessons in each of the languages we offer. At the start of December they will be asked to complete a preference form; stating their order of preferences for the languages and a reason for their first preference. They will then be assigned to a language and a class in January; with their preferences being taken into account as much as possible.

Are students taught in sets?

Students are taught in mixed ability groups. Lessons and work is differentiated to ensure that all students are supported in their learning but also stretched and challenged appropriately.

Do you offer any other languages?

We offer the three languages stated above but if a student is a native speaker in a language we do not offer here, we can enter them for the GCSE or A level exam (if the exam exists in that language) as an external candidate.

Are there any trips?

We normally offer a French, Spanish and China trip each year, if possible.

Do students have to study a language?

Studying a language is compulsory at KS3 but optional at KS4 and KS5.

Can students choose a different language at GCSE or study two languages?

For GCSE and A level, students can choose to study the language they were assigned to in year 7; they cannot switch to a different one. They can study one language.