

## **The Department:**

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is a leading department at NTS and is at the forefront of international education in the school. Over the years, we have worked hard to develop our own, very individual “House Style” of teaching, firmly based on traditional principles of grammatical understanding, and delivered in a highly structured manner, giving pupils a clear awareness of how language operates, and the ability to express themselves effectively in spoken and written form. Our staff are all subject specialists, and we share a vast range of experience between us. We pride ourselves on our reputation for delivering outstanding teaching and learning, and contributing to both professional development and the cultural dimension within the school and further afield, through outreach.

We teach French and Spanish and have a healthy uptake of both languages at GCSE and A Level. We are justly proud of the number of students that go on to study Languages at university, and our Oxbridge record is excellent. In the past three years, three of our students secured places to read Modern Languages at Oxford, joining a long line of former NTS linguists. We offer Latin in the Sixth Form and pride ourselves on the number of clubs that we offer to pupils keen to develop a burgeoning interest in languages. In recent years, these have included taster courses in Italian, Ancient Greek, German, and Russian and via our Asia Club, Japanese, Chinese Mandarin and Korean. We have email and written pen friend links with schools around the globe, including Taiwan and France, and recently, we piloted a project where every child in Key Stage 3 wrote to a child in Northern France. This is now going strong. You will gather from all the above, that we are rather passionate about languages and our EBac numbers and attendance at our clubs indicate that our pupils share our perspective.

In terms of resourcing, we are very fortunate to be based in the former “House block” which retains many of its original features. All our classrooms are well-resourced with data projectors and interactive whiteboards, and all staff are provided with their own laptop. We also have a number of ipads and netbooks for use with small groups. All our teaching resources are designed and created in-house and form a very high quality, coherent and sequenced package that delivers excellent results. Classrooms reflect this with visual support that enhances the learning. Our resourcing on the Moodle platform enables our pupils to take control of their learning and accelerate progress outside the classroom. A rigorous approach to tracking and assessment gives our pupils the tools to fully understand their own “Learning Story” and we work assiduously to create autonomous and independent learners.

In Key Stage 3, we currently offer French as our main language in Year 7, and the top two sets also start Spanish in Year 8. In Key Stage 4, we offer AQA GCSE in French and Spanish with most pupils studying either one or two languages. At A Level, we have one class of each language and a number of Sixth-Formers also take Latin.

Each year, we take almost half of Year 7 to Merville in Normandy for a trip enabling them to put into practice all that they have learned and also visit the Normandy Landing Beaches, the war cemeteries and the museum at Arromanches. We are involved in the British Council Connecting Classrooms programme and we regularly organise EXPO events celebrating international education in Cumbria. Our Head of Department and two pupils have presented at the British Council’s International Expo in Taiwan and in 2016, a small team formed part of a British delegation representing the UK. Later this year 8 of our pupils will visit Hualien, staying with Taiwanese families. Our department trains international mentors each year to deliver culture and language to younger pupils in Asia Club, and we have been awarded Full International School Status, with our international dimension described as “exemplary” by OFSTED.