

THE PROGRAMME

Students will be exploring aspects of French or Spanish-speaking societies, including current trends and issues, as well the artistic culture and the political life in the French or Spanish-speaking world. Some of the sub-themes that will be covered within those main themes include the changing nature of family, the cyber-society, voluntary work, music and cinema, cultural heritage, the diversity in society, political commitment or immigration.

Students will also be studying a film at AS or in the first year of A-Level (Como agua para chocolate in Spanish and L'Etranger in French) and a book in the second year of A-Level (El laberinto del fauno or La Haine).

The key skills covered will be reading (authentic magazine articles, online pages), writing (essays, research projects, articles, reviews), listening (authentic radio programmes, video clips, interviews) and speaking (debates, role-playing, videos, presentations). Other skills will include grammar, translation and summary.

AS and A-Level students will be assessed through 3 papers: one written exam including listening, reading, summary tasks and translation; another written exam including essay(s) on the film and/or book; an oral exam based on the sub-themes covered in the course and an individual research project at A-Level.

The course will include 5 x 1-hour lessons a week with a teacher. Some activities will be based on the textbook, the dedicated online platform Kerboodle, a variety of high-quality material developed by the department or a range of other resources such as magazines, books, etc. All learning styles will be catered for, with a range of engaging, practical activities. Many activities will require students to develop higher-thinking skills, research and communication skills. Students will also have a 30 min. weekly speaking practice with a native speaker to practice their pronunciation, develop the content of their speaking answers and familiarise themselves with the oral examination material.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

The main career possibilities for language graduates are in education (Language secondary school teacher, teacher of English as a second language, etc.), interpreting and translating and in the tourism and hospitality industry (e.g. tour manager). Other sectors and industries looking for candidates with language skills include the culture sector, business services, charity work, engineering, the media industry, public administration or the fashion industry.



WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?

Learning a language is an amazing opportunity to gain a life-long skill which will boost your employability and make your university application stronger. The world is changing fast. More and more companies are going global and recruiters are increasingly looking for globally-minded people who can speak at least one foreign language. It also helps give your brain a boost and become a better learner.

It develops your understanding of your own mother tongue, consolidating your literacy skills and therefore your communication ability. It will also be a real asset in your personal life, allowing you to establish deep connections and cross-cultural friendships or making holiday-making abroad more accessible and exciting!