



## **The Modern Languages Department at St Paul's**

Modern Foreign Languages at St. Paul's is a large, thriving department at the heart of a busy school. All pupils currently study a language from Years 7 to 11. Year 7 pupils are allocated one language from French, German, Spanish and Italian and continue with this until the end of Year 11. We offer the AQA syllabus in all four languages for both GCSE and A-Level, with the exception of A-level Italian which is Edexcel. We also offer a taught Polish A-Level course for native speakers.

We have always had a 'Languages for All Policy' because we know that studying a language turns our students into powerful communicators who will secure the most interesting jobs and will forge strong relationships with others. Languages are taught in mixed-ability groups through Years 7 - 11. All students have three periods per language in each year. Years 12 and 13 have six periods per week.

Currently, the Modern Languages Department has nine members of staff and we are supported in class by the Emmaus Team (Learning Support Department). We run a Gifted and Talented Chinese programme for Year 10 and 11 which takes place after school. We also have a number of Year 12 and 13 MFL ambassadors who support the department.

As a Department, we believe language learning should be a positive, enjoyable and successful experience for all. Competence in a language is a valuable life skill that enhances job prospects. At St Paul's we believe that when lessons create a sense of enjoyment and fun, and where language is seen to be relevant to students' professional and personal development, all students can succeed.

We meet weekly as a Department to share ideas and plan strategically, operating an 'open-door' policy in our classrooms, informally discussing and calling in on each other's lessons in order to collect new ideas.

Responsibilities within the Department are negotiated on an annual basis and we try to encourage and provide for each individual member's professional development and growth. This is supported by the school Mentoring system, whereby each member of staff has a mentor with whom they discuss classroom practice and professional development.

We work within a Faculty of Languages, which includes the Departments of English and Modern Languages, and together we have the pastoral responsibility for one year group. We are supported pastorally by a Head of Year and academically by a Faculty Head.

We have a suite of six spacious language rooms and a Post-16 teaching base, each with an interactive whiteboard and lively displays. We also have access to Chromebooks. The Department has an excellent selection of resources, as we enjoy generous capitation every year.

As links with our neighbours in Europe become increasingly important, we aim to create an environment in which respect, tolerance, concern and interest in others are paramount.

Perhaps most importantly we are a committed, friendly and innovative team at a very exciting stage in the development of our department within the school. We enjoy sharing ideas and experiences and learn a great deal from team discussions and mutual observations.