

This is a linear specification which leads to an A Level examination to be taken in June 2023. Some of the topics will already be familiar to you from IGCSE but you will be studying them in greater breadth and depth.

The areas of study include: family, marriage and relationships, the digital world, German culture (festivals, art and the importance of the capital Berlin), multiculturalism, politics and German reunification. The IGCSE course is excellent preparation for A Level and you will find that the skills you have learnt will give you a strong foundation for success.

How does the course develop over the two years?

We cover language and cultural topics over the two years and in addition to this we study film and literature. Studying German literature and film is new to most Sixth Formers and so we tackle each aspect gradually, allowing lots of time for understanding and discussion. In Lower Sixth, we look at extracts from the play *Der Besuch der alten Dame* and the film *Das Leben der Anderen*, set in the former East Germany. The study of this fascinating period in German history is an important part of the A Level course. In Upper Sixth we study the film *Goodbye Lenin* which is insightful and funny in equal measures and deals with life in the DDR after the fall of the Berlin wall. *Die Verwandlung*, our Upper Sixth novel and one of the most famous works ever written in German, tells the story of Gregor Samsa who wakes up one morning to discover his life has taken a most unusual twist. Throughout the course, there are opportunities to discuss, debate and express your opinions in German. There is also the opportunity to research an area of interest which forms part of the A Level oral test. Weekly lessons with the German assistant allow for consolidation of lesson work and also help to develop your spontaneity and conversational German. At A Level you broaden your skills in the language: as well as developing your listening, reading and writing skills, we introduce you to translating into and from the language.

What materials will I be using?

We use a wide range of authentic sources, written and recorded, central to which will be the course book AQA German. You will also use texts taken from the Internet as well as watching excerpts from German films and news websites. Thorough revision and consolidation of grammar is built into the course. You will be given practice with examination-style questions too. You will have a password for the website Kerboodle which you can use independently at home or in lessons.

What about spending time in Germany?

We organise an annual cultural visit to Berlin, which allows pupils to practise their language skills and see at first hand this famous city which provides the setting for the films which we study. The culture of Berlin is also studied in depth in Lower Sixth and the trip helps to consolidate this.

How will my work be assessed?

Progress will be assessed throughout the course. As the classes are small, there are lots of opportunities to practise your language skills, receive help and improve. There will, of course, be mock examinations too, the first of which will take place in the January after you begin your A Level studies. At the end of the course, you will take three examinations: Paper One will test Comprehension (listening, reading and translation into English), Paper Two will test Writing (two essays - one on the film and one on the novel) and Paper Three is an oral test, consisting of discussion of your research project and another topic.

Will I enjoy A Level German?

- Are you looking for an A Level subject which is highly regarded by the most competitive universities?
- Do you need a subject which will complement the Science or Arts subjects which you wish to take for A Level?
- Are you interested in learning more about German culture?
- Do you like discussing current affairs?
- Do you like expressing your ideas and opinions in general?
- Do you want to do a subject which can be combined with many other disciplines at degree level?
- Are you considering a career related to languages or working abroad?
- Are you doing well in German at the moment?

If your answer to all or most of the above questions is 'yes', then German could well be the perfect choice for A Level! The course is stimulating and interesting and will launch you well on your way to fluency in the language.

Assistants

Sixth Form pupils attend regular oral practice sessions in small groups with the German Assistant. This is an excellent opportunity to practise the language with a young native speaker.

