



BRUTON SCHOOL

FOR GIRLS

ON SUNNY HILL

## Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)

Mrs X Harvey

### Academic Requirements

GCSE grade B, A or A\*. Candidates should be genuinely interested in the target-language country, have an enthusiasm for written and spoken language as a means of communication and an understanding of basic grammar structures in English as well as the foreign language. Although a stay in the country is not compulsory, the stress on fluency makes it highly desirable.

**Course Specification:** Edexcel A level in French, German and Spanish.

Work is assessed at the end of the two-year course, to include comprehension, translation, essay writing and oral expression. In the speaking examination, students engage in conversation with their teacher-examiner, prompted by prescribed, previously unseen material as well as material prepared by the candidate following research on a topic of their choice. Specimen examination material will form the basis of this preparation, whilst the topics will be taught through up-to-date texts, audio and video material, as well as literary and film material pertaining to the relevant language's cultural heritage. The students each have an individual lesson with a foreign language assistant to build up their fluency and practise examination questions. There is on-going development of the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, based on the following topic areas:

### FRENCH

- Social Issues & Trends
- Political & Artistic Culture
- Immigration & the Multi-Cultural Society
- A Period of History: L'Occupation et la Résistance
- One Literary Work: *Un sac de billes*, Joseph Joffo
- One Film: *Intouchables*, Éric Toledano & Olivier Nakache



Patrons: Mrs A Maw, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset and Lady Gass DCVO

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## GERMAN

- Social Issues & Trends
- Political & Artistic Culture
- Immigration & the Multi-Cultural Society
- A Period of History: Die Wiedervereinigung Deutschlands
- One Literary Work: *Ich fühl mich so fifty-fifty*, Karin König (tbc)
- One Film: *Die Welle*, Dennis Gansel

## SPANISH

- Social Issues & Trends
- Political & Artistic Culture
- Immigration & the Multi-Cultural Society
- A Period of History: La Dictadura Franquista y la Transición a la Democracia
- One Literary Work: *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba*, Gabriel García Márquez
- One Film: *Diarios de Motocicleta*, Walter Salles

There is also considerable emphasis on an awareness of grammatical accuracy at a more sophisticated level than GCSE, and the ability to transfer parts of a text in English into the target language and vice versa. The use of dictionaries and reference to the studied texts are not allowed in examinations.

## Why Modern Languages?

Languages open doors and can give an international dimension to your higher education studies and future career, whatever your field of work. As facilitating subjects, they are well regarded by universities and prove that candidates who study them have intellectual ability, an analytical mind, the ability to spot patterns and apply them creatively, open-mindedness and excellent communication skills. The study of the target language's contemporary society and culture also brings an insight into one's own language and culture, affording the student a wider perspective and more in-depth understanding of the world. Languages are highly regarded by employers; they are a contributing factor to higher income levels and are the perfect addition to a degree in a seemingly-unrelated subject, as graduates who can offer a language in addition to expertise in their field are



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highly sought after on the UK and global job markets. There is currently a great shortage of British native linguists.

### **The Students' Perspective**

“You come out at the other side with more than just an A level. As well as learning a language, you gain access to a different culture and develop skills that will be useful across the board - it's really worth it!”

“Such fun! French lessons are a breath of fresh air; they are focused yet relaxed and the diverse backgrounds of the students in my class make it all the more interesting. We have stimulating discussions and there's never a dull moment! The cultural element makes the experience all the more enjoyable and dynamic. Arguing in a foreign language is challenging but rewarding and has its funny moments, with mistakes and misunderstandings, but that's the best way to learn.”

“I have found German in the Sixth Form really interesting. I am so glad I chose it as, not only have I improved my fluency in German hugely, I have also learnt valuable speaking skills, how to talk in front of an audience, how other cultures and societies work, and I have become much more confident writing or presenting myself in formal situations. I have visited Germany often over the last few years and intend to study at a German university after leaving school!”

“I took Spanish A level and found it thoroughly enjoyable; the course was very diverse and you can study the culture of Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries. At the end, you find that you can express yourself using a wide range of vocabulary and that you can use grammar in a new and exciting way. Even though, at times, the work was challenging, I found it really worthwhile and the best part of the course for me was the speaking.”