

MFL at Worle Community School Academy

Vision

The MFL team at Worle Community School Academy (WCSA) aim to create an environment where every student can enjoy and succeed in Languages. We believe strongly that the learning of Modern Foreign Languages is a necessary part of a broad and balanced curriculum and that it contributes enormously to the international ethos of the school.

The Team

The faculty consists of 6 highly skilled, dynamic and motivated language teachers who are fully committed to developing an outstanding learning experience for students at WCSA.

The team are constantly exploring and developing new ideas and are adventurous in their approach to teaching, learning and curriculum design.

Curriculum Structure

Lower school

The ethos of lower school languages at WCSA is to provide 'solid foundations for future success'. Students in Years 7 & 8 follow a lower school curriculum designed to make languages accessible, interesting, relevant and enjoyable. They have three hours of language study per week. From September 2017 we aim to provide the choice of three languages from Year 7. The curriculum enables students to enter upper school with a solid understanding of key concepts. Schemes of learning have been developed by the team to meet national standards with an emphasis on rich experiences for students. The use of ICT is increasingly common in lessons and we endeavour to ensure that students retain key vocabulary and language structures.

Upper school

At WCSA GCSE courses will begin in Year 9 from September 2017 and students have three years to work towards the qualification. Currently French and Spanish are taught at GCSE level following the AQA syllabus. Additional languages are also taught depending upon demand.

In August 2016 French achieved 61% A*-C

Learning Outside of the Classroom

Foreign language learning is enhanced by a growing programme of visits abroad and participation in Local Language events. There is currently a Y7 cross-curricular trip to Battlefields visit, and we are looking to rapidly extend our programme of foreign language visits and intensive language days.

Intervention

WCSA has an outstanding support structure for students and there is a clear whole school ethos when it comes to the success of students. The WCSA team is superbly supported by specialists who regularly work with students who require specific support with their

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progress in languages. We are lucky to have a FLA who works with us between October and May.

Accommodation

There are four specialised teaching rooms within the faculty, all of which are equipped with whiteboards and projectors. The use of ICT within lessons is highly encouraged and lessons often take place within one of the many computer suites available at WCSA. We also have a bespoke ICT room for languages.

Responsibilities

The MFL team work together to develop teaching and student learning to the highest standard. Each member of teaching and non-teaching staff has specific responsibilities which are agreed and written into a job description that is annually reviewed. This not only enables the Faculty to function smoothly in fulfilling its aim, but also allows for the professional development of each individual member of the team.

Future priorities for MFL

- Increasing proportion of A/A* grades at GCSE
- Improving listening results at GCSE
- Establishing greater cross faculty learning links across the curriculum
- Ensuring best practice is shared between faculties within WCSA and with schools in the local area
- Providing outstanding professional development opportunities for all staff
- Increasing parental involvement in student activities
- Using new technologies to enhance learning
- Building on links with Primary School partners

Anna Venn, Assistant Principal
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