



# GCSE Modern Foreign Languages – French and Spanish

**Key contacts:** Mrs N Merrison  
**Exam Board:** Edexcel Full Course

## Overview of the course:

The learning, in the world of work, of a Modern Foreign Language, is now seen as more important than ever and a desirable ingredient of a balanced yet broad curriculum. Committed students of Modern Foreign Languages will enjoy not only developing a range of transferable interpersonal skills but will also finish the course with a highly prized academic qualification. At Ivybridge Community College we are able to offer two languages in Years 10 and 11 - French and Spanish.

The aims of this qualification are to:

- provide a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study
- develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, and to recognise the importance of languages
- provide a strong linguistic and cultural foundation for students who go on to study languages at a higher level post-16
- develop students' ability and ambition to communicate independently in speech and writing with speakers of the language for authentic purposes
- develop students' ability to communicate independently about subjects that are meaningful and interesting to them
- build students' confidence and broaden their horizons, enabling them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries, develop new ways of seeing the world, and better understand relationships between the foreign language and the English language
- enable students to become familiar with aspects of the contexts and cultures of the countries and communities where the language is spoken

## What will you study?

**Vocabulary:** the vocabulary in this qualification is clearly defined and enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs. Vocabulary is predominately high frequency and applies to the following six broad thematic contexts which provide a focus for the teaching and learning of the vocabulary and grammar listed:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and well-being
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

**Grammar:** A full list of the grammar assessed is outlined in the specification and is mapped through the GCSE course.

**Sound-Symbol Correspondences (SSCs):** Students study key differences in SSCs between Spanish/French and English so that they learn to read out loud and transcribe with sufficient accuracy at this level.

**Cultural Content:** Built on a foundation of inclusivity, the MFL GCSE qualification caters to the needs of all students, regardless of their background, ability, or reason for studying a language. Language study gives opportunities to broaden students' cultural awareness and introduces them to new experiences.

## Assessment

The Edexcel specification for French and Spanish leads to the GCSE examination at the end of Year 11 for all students. Students will need to learn thoroughly all the phonics, grammar and vocabulary covered during the course and this will be assessed through three assessment objectives:

**AO1** – understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and writing (35%)

**AO2** – understand and respond to written language in speaking and writing (45%)

**AO3** – demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary presented in the specification (20%)

Each AO will be assessed through four papers: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Reading, Writing and Listening will be externally assessed examinations. Speaking will also be assessed externally, but will be conducted by an Ivybridge Community College Teacher.

In order that students may demonstrate their achievement of the differentiated objectives, two tiers of examination (Foundation and Higher) are offered.

Continuous class assessment will be supplemented by formal departmental assessments, which will be used to establish the levels of attainment by each student. This will help the teacher to produce regular profiles for each student, which can be reported home. Each student will be encouraged to take an active role in their own progress and assessment. There will also be an Examination Series in the autumn and spring term in Year 11. Past papers will be taken and this will help teachers decide upon appropriate tiers of entry in the GCSE examination.

## Possible career path:

Knowing another language gives a competitive edge in career choices in sectors such as Business, Law, Charitable organisations or non-governmental organisations (NGOs), The Military, The Foreign Office, Government, Marketing, Hospitality and many more.

As well as direct career links, MFL places great importance on instilling a skill set in their students that will aid them in the work place and go beyond the skill of speaking a foreign language. These are:

- Communication - students are encouraged to make whole class presentations and take part in discussions in the foreign language. The MFL Department promotes the importance of having the communication skills to show respect for other people, tolerance, and an appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Resilience – students are encouraged to take risks and then learn from their mistakes in order to improve their language skills.
- Problem solving - students develop problem solving skills by working through materials in the foreign language where vocabulary and grammar can be completely new to them.
- Independent learning – students are encouraged to attend the wide range of additional sessions that are offered as well as working at home using a variety of resources.