



# AS/A2 GERMAN

Head of Department - Mr C. Zursiedel

## EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

## SYLLABUS TITLE

GERMAN

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

The minimum requirement is a grade B at GCSE, but we expect the majority of students to have a grade A or A\*.

## THE COURSE CONTENT

A Level courses in Foreign Languages are designed to follow on naturally from GCSE, which means importance continues to be given to all four skill areas of *Listening, Speaking, Reading* and *Writing*.

In addition to your 5 timetabled lessons per week, there will be weekly sessions with the foreign language assistant. Lessons will normally be conducted in German, as this is the best way to develop your confidence and skills in general, and for the A Level exams in particular.

You will be expected to take an interest in the current affairs of the country you are studying, read newspapers and magazines available in the school, and try to listen regularly to German.

The Modern Languages department has a wide range of resources in the schools' learning centre for private research, including access to the Internet, various texts (novels, short stories), good quality dictionaries, DVDs, audio CDs, and magazines. This will enable students to explore and develop a deeper understanding of contemporary society and cultural background.

Staff will expect you to try to visit the country whose language you are studying at least once during the two-year course. This could be via our successful exchange and work placement programme, and staff will be pleased to advise you of further opportunities. Visits to plays, films and language conferences may also be arranged.

## ASSESSMENT

The syllabus allows two units to be examined at the end of Year 12, with a further two at the end of Year 13. One of these is an oral discussion in either year, based on a stimulus chosen by the student. The other exam is a mixed skills paper, consisting of Listening, Reading and Writing.

## HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED CAREERS

With almost 100 Million speakers, German is the most used language in the EU, though any A Level or a degree in Modern Language(s) is highly desirable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As in all arts subjects, the ability to broaden horizons and question existing ideas is inherent. It is also valuable in its own right and employers do appreciate a language qualification even when the jobs they seek to fill require no special language ability. The skills you acquire as a linguist are obvious: to listen; to communicate effectively; to evaluate; to explain; to analyse linguistically; and to understand a foreign country and its people.

An increasing number of universities have abandoned the traditional concentration on literature in favour of stronger emphasis on modern history, current affairs, economics and business studies. Courses are also available in which science or engineering is combined with a language degree.

Linguists can find employment opportunities in a wide array of sectors, including broadcasting, purchasing, commerce and industry, international organisations, interpreting, translating, teaching and the Civil Service. You can improve your career prospects with a modern language in such fields as law, accountancy, journalism and insurance.

Competence in one foreign language can be a stepping stone to others. After A Level German you might go on to study other European languages, or arguably more challenging ones, such as Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or Arabic.