



Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

MFL DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Languages Faculty is a highly successful Faculty, with teachers and students enjoying their teaching and learning journeys in a joyful and purposeful environment. We are united by a love of foreign languages and cultures- a diversity inherent to our school, being in London; and a diversity that we strive to celebrate. There is a strong and supportive team spirit, with teachers working together to provide students with the newest pedagogies and resources, whilst reducing workload as all contribute to resources and all resources are shared. There is a balance of part time and full-time staff with both very experienced and newer members of staff, who all share a love for teaching languages. There is a Head of Languages (&French), as well as a head of German and a Head of Spanish.

We have recently redesigned our KS3 curriculum and are excited to move to the new GCSE format in September. The faculty is located just above the staffroom and all the rooms have interactive whiteboard facilities; staff and students all have their own school laptop and we make daily use of a wide range of ICT resources, which allow students to drill and manipulate grammar and vocabulary in an enjoyable manner as well working independently and at their own pace.

Results are outstanding in the faculty and progress is in the top 2% of the country- which reflects both the ambition and commitment of our students to do well and the excellent subject knowledge and dedication of their teachers. Last summer, almost every other student studying a language at GCSE achieved a grade 9-7 (32% in German, 57% in French and 58% in Spanish).

All students in Year 7 study French, all students in Year 8 continue French and pick up either German or Spanish and the vast majority of students will continue with a language in year 9- with the option to be double linguists. Traditionally, we have about 65-75% retention at GCSE- offered in all 3 languages. At the moment, A Levels are offered in French and Spanish only.

Trips are a big part of language learning and experiencing foreign cultures outside the classroom. This year, we are relaunching our pre-Covid trips and offer the following: French exchange, as well as residential trips to France, Spain and Germany.

MFL staff find working in our school rewarding thanks to our students' engagement and attitude to work and our school's ethos and commitment to celebrating and promoting languages. We believe that Languages are an essential part of young people's education, not only because we are all citizen of the same world and we want to take every opportunity to celebrate our students' diversity, but also because learning about other languages and cultures makes us more knowledgeable and tolerant to others, which helps fight racism and discrimination. Everything we do in MFL has two main goals: making sure our school leavers are ambitious for themselves, kind and generous and also that they feel they have been well equipped to cope with their public examination and the changing world around them.

Melanie Guillet-Siad

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Head of Languages