

MODERN LANGUAGES

COURSE GUIDE 2019

FRENCH
SPANISH

One language sets you in a corridor
for life. Two languages opens every
door along the way.

FRANK SMITH



French Spanish

Linear A Level
Exam Board: AQA (French)
AQA (Spanish)

start a **2nd**
language from scratch!!

OUR STUDENTS SAY...

I enjoy studying at Carmel as the college provides many opportunities to learn about future careers and how to successfully apply.

I am interested in pursuing medicine so the Carmel Medical Society has helped me learn about the entry requirements and the sort of work experience that I should be doing. As well as Science and Maths, I take French as I think the lesson, teaching and way of learning are really different to how I work in my other subjects. The skills I am learning in French will greatly improve my medicine application as taking a language develops communication skills which are vital when training to become a doctor. Also the atmosphere in language lessons is very comfortable and enjoyable as everyone feels confident speaking and listening to each other and that helps everyone to develop quickly and confidently.

Ella Riley Wade Deacon
Studying: Biology, Chemistry, French, Maths



Why choose Languages at Carmel?

At Carmel, languages are a popular A Level choice, appealing to a variety of students who wish to follow a career in languages or supplement their other A Levels with a highly regarded and respected A Level subject. Many UK and overseas universities offer combined degree courses where a language is studied alongside another subject, offering wider career options in the future.

What will I study?

During the course, you will be exposed to written and spoken articles covering a wide spectrum of topics such as youth culture and trends; gender equality; the world of work; immigration and social integration; traditions and lifestyles of the countries where your language of study is spoken.

For both languages, you will, with the help of your tutor, study a text and a film which you will analyse as part of a written exam. In addition, you will have the opportunity to select a topic, linked to a country/culture of the language you are studying and complete a short research project which you will discuss during the speaking exam. Guidance on suitable topics and on how to go about this task will of course be provided by tutors.

What skills will I develop?

Studying a language will help to improve your understanding and communication skills. Your tutors will offer regular support sessions but will also help and encourage

you to develop independent study skills such as reading texts, using specific websites and accessing resources in our language lab to enable you to develop your skills and improve across all four areas.

How is the course examined?

Throughout the course, you will complete internal assessments to assess your progress in the language. Language students will complete three external examinations at the end of their second year as follows:

Component 1 - Speaking (30%)

Component 2 - Reading, Listening and Translation (50%)

Component 3 - Text / Film based essay writing (20%)

What qualities do I need to be a good A Level language student?

All students with a proven ability in a language can access the A Level course in French or Spanish and we find that our students work hard to achieve good grades. To enjoy and achieve in your chosen language, you should:

- Have a sound basic knowledge of the language you wish to study
- Feel happy about speaking in the language of study and have the desire to improve your oral communication skills
- Have a desire to learn more about the culture of the country
- Be positive about learning new vocabulary and grammar (essential for translating!)
- Enjoy working in small groups but also have the ability to work independently
- Have a desire to become a more confident linguist
- Want to succeed!



French Exchange trip to La Roche sur Yon



OUR STUDENTS SAY...

I enjoy studying at Carmel as it provides a great environment for studying and socialising alike.

As I'm hoping to do languages at university, I chose to study French and Spanish, together with Chemistry. I was very impressed by the way languages are taught at Carmel as the classes have a community atmosphere to them, where everyone feels comfortable speaking and listening to each other in the target language.

In addition, I also study Mandarin as Enrichment. As well as the two fantastic trips I've been on to France and Spain with the college, I am also planning on taking part in a two-week trip to China later this year.

Paul Abraham The Blue Coat
Studying: French, Spanish, Chemistry



Do I need to have studied a language to GCSE to start A Level?

In the majority of cases, yes – but it is possible to take up a new language from scratch, provided that you have proven ability in another language. Many students have done this in the past and have achieved top grades after just two years of study. This could give you wider choices for your university study / career. If you are interested, speak to any of the language tutors who will be happy to advise you.

How will I be assessed?

Homework is set and marked with a grade and targets for improvements given regularly. There is also a weekly verb test in the first term and weekly grammar and/or vocabulary tests. This will give a good indication about your progress.

What is the Modern Languages department like?

We are friendly and supportive! Our Modern Language department has a suite of rooms comprising teaching bases equipped with interactive boards, multi-media projectors and wireless internet connection. We also have a wide range of language resources and a digital Language Laboratory. All our resources are designed to help you to develop your language skills in a varied and exciting way.

What support will I receive?

All foreign language students attend a weekly conversation class in their chosen language(s) in order to develop their speaking skills and boost oral confidence. These sessions, which are compulsory and conducted in small groups by native speakers, form an integral part of preparation for the oral examinations. Further support in grammar and in improving reading, writing and comprehension skills is given in weekly tutorials some of which require compulsory attendance. A 'Stretch and Challenge', more advanced tutorial session is offered every week for more able linguists.

As exams approach, we try to organise regular additional revision sessions for all students.

	2017			2018		
	A*-B	A*-C	Overall	A*-B	A*-C	Overall
French	82%	91%	100%	64%	72%	96%
Spanish	65%	80%	100%	59%	93%	100%

Student Voice

"I really like the class and all of the teachers. I have been offered so much help and I feel much more confident, especially with speaking."

"The positive and welcoming attitude of the teachers which inspires me to improve and work even harder."

"Being offered the opportunity to do the exchange and make friends for life in France - in addition, I really like the book that we are studying and learning about the culture of the country."

"There are lots of tutorials to go to if we need help, and you can ask for extra work and support on anything you would like to improve."

"The teachers are approachable and I feel I can speak to them when I have a problem."

"It's engaging and interesting and the lessons are always structured well. Tutors are enthusiastic and there is a great atmosphere in lessons."



OUR STUDENTS SAY...

I love coming to college every day because I know that I will learn new and interesting things.

The thing that impresses me the most at Carmel is the great help and support you get from the teachers; I think that they try their best to help you with everything. I enjoy studying Spanish because I think it will open up many doors in the world of work. It also gives you the opportunity to develop a range of skills, for example how to communicate effectively and also how to manage your time and be organised. I recommend studying Spanish because I think it is an interesting subject that is fun to learn and it's great to be able to speak a different language. I have now gained more confidence in everything I do and I also had the opportunity to travel to Avila in Spain to further develop and practise my Spanish.

Marta Maciuszek

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi
Studying: Spanish, English Language,
Photography



Frequently Asked Questions

What other activities will I get involved in?

Our annual French Exchange, with a college in the Vendée area, takes place in the second term and gives students the opportunity to improve linguistic skills and build confidence in addition to making life-long friends.

The Spanish Department has organised many cultural trips to Barcelona and recently Spanish students went to Avila, near Madrid staying with a family where they experienced the Spanish way of life.

This was an invaluable opportunity for students to practise their language skills and in 2018 we hope to go to Cuba.

Other activities include: language related careers advice sessions with former students and liaison officers from local universities; and an annual taster day at the University of Manchester for all students interested in studying languages at degree level.



Spanish trip to Madrid



Spanish trip to Madrid

What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need **GCSE grade 5 in your chosen language(s)**.

Where does a Modern Languages qualification lead?

Students in recent years have gone to university, studying languages by themselves or combined with other subjects, such as business, management, law, administration, ICT, engineering, international marketing and journalism. The choice is endless!

Can I study more than one language?

Yes – several students study two languages but many study just one.

Does it matter if I have only studied French or Spanish for just one or two years?

Not at all! When you begin the course you will find that we review a lot of the work done at GCSE and build on it.

What happens if I feel I am 'weaker' in one of the skill areas such as speaking?

This is not a problem as during the first few weeks of the course you have an opportunity to plan with your tutor what you can do to improve all your skill areas.

Remember - if you feel that you are experiencing difficulties with any part of the course there is always plenty of help on hand to support you.

Meet the Tutors

Yleana Morris

Head of MFL
Subject Leader French

Daniel Saunders

Subject Tutor Spanish

Dominique Dorcé

French Assistant

Sandra Gonzalez-Green

Spanish Assistant

carmel
college

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More Information

Any member of the languages staff will be delighted to answer your questions either at the Open Events or at another time convenient to you.

Contact email: yleana@carmel.ac.uk