



Spanish Frequently Asked Questions

The majority of FAQs are answered in the course leaflet but here is some extra information -

Can I study Spanish from scratch?

For gifted linguists, you **may** be able to start a new language from scratch (ab initio). You must have achieved a 7+ in another language. For example, you have achieved a grade 9 in Spanish GCSE but you would like to study French at A Level too but you have never studied it. This will require a discussion with the subject teacher upon enrolment and will be subject to a four-week probation period to assess your ability and commitment to the course. You will have to show very high levels of commitment and a passion for languages.

What is this course about?

You will develop the four key skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking that you started at GCSE as well as translation. You will also improve your ability to communicate effectively both in speaking and writing by studying, researching and discussing a range of exciting topics. These topics are centred around French-speaking societies and their evolution over time in terms of social, cultural and historical events. You will gain a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

In the first year, you will study a range of social issues and trends, aspects of the political and artistic culture of the countries where the language is spoken as well as the study of a literary text. In the second year, you will study a further two major topics, the multicultural society and recent historical events in Spain, plus a film.

Why choose this course?

You will be taught by excellent, well qualified teachers who put students at the heart of the curriculum. You will have your timetabled classes taught by Yleana and your conversation classes, which are small groups of 5 students, taught by Sandra. This is designed to give you a higher level of support in this challenging, highly rewarding subject. You will learn in a pleasant language classroom on the top floor of West Park. As a language student, you will have exclusive access to a language lab that is equipped with computers for you to be able to practise, individually, listening exercises with the packages we have purchased for you to use.

You will participate in a range of cultural activities and university trips, visits by guest speakers and the opportunity for trips abroad.

What will this course lead on to?

Studying a Modern Foreign Language in today's global economy can open a wide range of career opportunities to you. Many employers look for potential employees with language skills. At degree level, you can choose to study a pure language degree or combine it with a subject of your choice, for example, Business, History, Politics, Law, English and many more.

What will I learn on this course?

You will develop an interest in and enthusiasm for language learning. You will develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres, which will in turn enhance your understanding of English. You will learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. You will also develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of the countries where the language is spoken. You will also develop a range of transferable skills from debating to researching and in doing so you will gain in confidence and independence as a learner.

Enrichment Opportunities:

There are additional tutorials put on through the year to stretch you and support you. As a high achieving pupil (HAP) there will be additional tutorials for you from the start of your time at Carmel to challenge you to aim for the highest grades. There will be a work experience trip abroad to complete, university visits organised and guest speakers often visit the department to discuss opportunities with languages.

Transferable Skills: This A Level in Spanish will enable you to:

- enhance your linguistic skills and promote and develop your capacity for critical thinking on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the countries/communities where the language is spoken.
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language.
- develop your ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media.
- develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence.
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within your cultural and social context.
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the countries/communities where the language is spoken.
- mediate between cultures and between speakers of the language and speakers of English.
- foster your ability to learn other languages.
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.
- develop your capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the language of study.