

## LANGUAGE OPTIONS YEAR 8

### GERMAN

Did you know that German is the language with the highest number of native speakers in Europe, is an official language in 6 European countries, and is thus a hugely important trading language for the UK? In Years 8 and 9 you will learn to understand, talk and write about topics such as yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, and how to deal with everyday situations in a German speaking country. You will also learn more about German-speaking culture, looking at German food, festivals, and famous places in German-speaking countries. You will find that the topic areas we study form an integral part of the GCSE course, thus preparing you well for further study at Key Stage 4. German grammar is taught so that you will be able to express yourself more confidently, and by the end of Year 9 you will have covered nearly all the grammar rules, allowing you to consolidate things at Key Stage 4. We use the Zoom German textbooks in Year 8 and 9, supplemented by plenty of online learning materials, games and activities to get you speaking, writing, reading, and listening to German in a variety of fun ways. There is also the opportunity to go on our exchange visit to Osnabrück in Year 9 or 10, a trip that has been running for over fifty years!

### LATIN

Over 60% of the English we speak and over 95% of medical terms come directly from Latin or Greek. Indeed, medicine is so influenced by Latin that The Journal of Medical Case Reports wrote in 2018 that “English medical terminology cannot be reasonably mastered without knowledge of basic Latin.” In Year 8 you will explore the Suburani course and will travel from Rome to Britain where you will be introduced to Boudicca’s rebellion, the Druids, and the Amazon warrior women as well as reading of the exploits of Sabina’s family. You will improve your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary with a view to translating from Latin to English confidently. The Department uses a variety of resources including puzzles and a plethora of interactive and digital resources. We believe that pupils who enjoy their learning learn better and retain more, and we employ a range of fun activities including lots of educational games. If you choose Latin, you will have an excellent opportunity to explore a subject which lies at the heart of many modern languages, including English, as well as gain an insight into the culture and society of the Romans.

### SPANISH

¡Bienvenidos a todos! Flamenco, films, fiestas, baile, beaches, sangría, sol - Welcome to the Spanish department at the RGS! We are a dynamic and energetic department and our aim is to give you not only a sound grounding in the Spanish language but also a wider understanding of Hispanic culture. In Year 8 you will cover topics to enable you, at a very early stage, to feel you can communicate in the language. Topics covered include introducing and talking about yourself, talking about your family, free-time, sports, describing your house and home and shopping. Furthermore, we regularly use ICT to enhance your enjoyment of the subject.

### CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

The Classics Department also offers a course in Classical Civilisation in Years 8 and 9. This is aimed at those of you who have enjoyed the background material to the Latin course – the history and mythology – but have perhaps found the language work less appealing. The course is both interesting and challenging, as we cover some of the key events and issues from the Classical period and attempt to answer some of the most pressing questions raised by the Greeks and Romans. You will study a range of topics from: Tales of Greek gods and heroes, an introduction to Greek History, the creation of democracy, festivals like the Olympic Games, Greek theatre (we will read, and possibly act out, a tragedy and a comedy), and what it was like to live in Greece and Pompeii). There will be lots of discussion and interaction in class.

### GENERAL NOTE

At the end of Year 9 it is currently possible to choose Classical Civilisation as a GCSE option even if you have not studied it in Years 8/9. It is not possible to begin German, Spanish or Latin in Year 10.