

LANGUAGE OPTIONS YEAR 8

GERMAN

Did you know that German is the first language spoken by the greatest number of people in Europe and is thus a hugely important trading language for the UK? In Years 8 and 9 you will learn to talk and write about topics such as yourself, your family and friends and how to deal with everyday situations in a German speaking country. You will find that the topic areas we study form an integral part of the GCSE course, thus preparing you for your GCSE, if you decide to take German at Key Stage 4. We also explore German, Austrian and Swiss culture through literature, songs and food. German grammar is taught so that you will be able to express yourself more confidently. Our curriculum is based on the Zoom German course. The Department has a vast array of teaching materials which you will find very useful and which will provide you with a varied, stimulating and fulfilling learning experience. You might also want to consider applying to go on our exchange visit to Osnabrück in Year 9 or 10.

LATIN

We follow the lives of Caecilius, Metella and the irrepressible Grumio in Years 8 and 9. Our course has a similar pattern to Year 7, following both the language and the historical and Classical background topics. We use the Cambridge Latin Course textbook, finishing Book I with the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD and the destruction of Pompeii, then moving onto Roman Britain, Egypt and eventually the city of Rome itself. The focus of the course is primarily on increasing your confidence and knowledge of vocabulary and grammar with a view to translating from Latin to English, and on teaching you Latin in a modern and exciting way. You 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 heroes, Greek architecture, Introduction to Greek History, starting with the Minoans / Mycenaeans, Olympic Games, Greek theatre, Julius Caesar and Octavian, life in Rome, and Greek epic poetry.

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.