**Introduction to Modern Foreign Languages**

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At St Martins School the Modern Foreign Language Department offers two languages: **Spanish** and **French.**

**Primary department**

**French** is studied in the **Primary department** from Years 3 to Year 6 with two half hour lessons per week. In primary the focus is on enjoyment, oral communication and pupil participation through a variety of activities such as games and songs.

**Useful websites for Primary French:**

[**http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/index\_flash.shtml**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/index_flash.shtml)

**Secondary department**

Both **Spanish** and **French** are taught throughout Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9).

**Year 7**

All Year 7 students have 4 hours of languages per week; two hours of French and two hours of Spanish. In the summer term of Year 7 students will be required to choose either to continue with Spanish or French during Year 8 and Year 9. Details about the curriculum can be found on the website.

**Year 8 and Year 9**

Students will either study Spanish or French, this is taught over two hours per week. Details about the curriculum can be found on the website.

**Year 10 and Year 11**

The Modern Foreign Languages Department offers GCSE courses in both **Spanish** and **French**. During the spring term of Year 9 students will have the opportunity to opt to GCSE Spanish or GCSE French. For both languages it is taught over two hours per week. Details about the curriculum can be found on the website.

\***Tops tips for helping your child in languages.**

1. Test your child frequently on the language they have learnt that week. Give them the English word, and get them to say and/or spell in the French or Spanish. If possible revisit vocabulary and high frequency structures from previous work.

a) Sky writing can be a fun way to do this.

b) Look, cover, say write and check (will know this from primary school).

c) Saying the vocabulary in funny voices.

d) Record and play back on a smart phone.

2. Encourage your child to teach you what they have learnt in French or Spanish.

3. Download language applications from a smart phone to play back and listen to frequently.

4. To help with homework encourage your child to use their exercise books and work booklets (especially the vocabulary pages) to check prior learning and to build upon skills developed in the lesson.

5. Use the suggested language websites for help.

6. When your child has a writing or speaking assessment or GCSE Controlled

Assessment coming up, it is important that they practise regularly. Little and often is much more effective than trying to learn huge amounts in one go. “Chunking” or breaking sentences into smaller sections also helps. Also encourage your child to use any strategy that will improve or aid their memory skills.

**MFL Staff:**

**Mrs Cathy Young  *(Head of Department, teacher of French)*** **Catherine.Young@stmartins3-16.org**

**Mrs Bethan Dumayne  *(Teacher of Spanish and French)*** **Bethan.Dumayne@stmartins3-16.org**