

## **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

### **Department information for candidates**

We are very pleased that you are thinking about applying for a post with us. The following is some general information about the department. If you would like any further information to inform your application, please contact Nicky Baker, Head of Department [nbaker@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:nbaker@plymstockschool.org.uk)

We are passionate about making language learning fun and promoting the fact that language skills enable our students to take their place in today's multi-lingual global society. Languages are a real future asset in many areas such as business, engineering, marketing and tourism. Learning languages helps students develop a number of key skills in a variety of contexts whilst gaining a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where the languages are spoken.

### **Curriculum organisation**

Students learn French in Year 7. We build on the languages and literacy skills learnt at Key Stage 2 from the starting point that it doesn't matter which language has been learned at primary, the skills and knowledge about language are transferable. Some students have reduced Languages time in order to further support their Literacy, which is taught within the languages curriculum by the MFL teacher.

In Years 8 and 9, all students continue with French and talented linguists have the opportunity to pick up German as well. In Years 10 and 11, for GCSE, most students are expected to continue with one foreign language and a dual linguist option is also available. SLT and the options process strongly encourage the uptake of MFL for GCSE. At KS5 French and German are offered to A Level within the local consortium (Hele's, Coombe Dean, Plympton Academy)

KS3 students have 6 hours' MFL time per fortnight and KS4 have 5 hours. KS5 have 10 hours (although this is reduced when numbers are small).

If there is sufficient demand a Spanish GCSE class can offered for Years 10 to 13.

We are well resourced, using Allez and Zoom in KS3 and Studio and Stimmt for Edexcel GCSE. The department has its own computer suite, so classes have regular access to ICT based learning.

### **Wider participation**

We are very proud of the opportunities we provide for students beyond the classroom. In 2018-2019 our students will have the following opportunities abroad:

- Year 7 "Le Grand Weekend" 4-day activities trip to Normandy, supported by y10 language leaders
- German Christmas Markets weekend (Y8-10)
- One week residential trip to Paris (Y8&9)

- One week residential trip to the Rhineland (Y8&9) supported by y10&12 language leaders
- GCSE exchange programmes within the Erasmus project (Y10)

Extra-curricular opportunities have included

- KS4 German club cultural information project on lifestyles
- French KS3 club
- Y9-10 opportunities to lead lessons around French/German festivals within primary schools

The Language Leaders Programme allows motivated Y9-13 students to help plan and take part in our Year 7 Normandy trip, the Aquarium Sleepover and run after-school clubs in our local primary schools.

### **“Ocean Citizens of the Future” Erasmus Project**

The 'Ocean citizens of the future' is an Erasmus+ funded project with the aim of engaging young people in the coastal cities of Plymouth and Brest with maritime culture. It also provides the opportunity for teaching professionals both here and in France to share pedagogy and develop their practice.

The project itself has now finished and we are looking at ways to continue our cooperation with our partner school in Brest and also at funding streams for another Erasmus+ project (whilst money is still available).