

Modern Foreign Languages

Statement of Intent

At Nishkam High School, we aim to create global citizens who can communicate their thoughts and feelings in a foreign language and have an awareness of other cultures. We intend to create the very best linguists through a carefully crafted curriculum which not only provides students with the mechanics of the language but also the 'personality' of language. We do this by delivering an ambitious content alongside offering students the opportunity to get a flavour of the culture of a country.

Our knowledge-engaged curriculum underpins and enables the application of skills. Our curriculum has been specifically designed to ensure that our students get a firm understanding of the language that they are studying. We achieve this by building our curriculum around three 'pillars': phonics, vocabulary and grammar. Phonics is the foundation for our language learning, and we ensure that our students are secure in this in Year 7. We carefully select the vocabulary that we teach to ensure that students build a rich lexicon, and we consider the order in which we teach grammar to ensure a logical and systematic approach. For our students to access the full curriculum offer, we prioritise reading and actively teach our students how to read. As a department we carefully plan progression through our curriculum with regular revisiting of content and skills to build on existing knowledge. We believe that our curriculum design will give our students the best opportunity to gain a cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.

Our faith inspired, virtues led approach is mirrored in our delivery of the course. Through teacher modelling and support we encourage all students to be well-mannered, thoughtful and respectful of others. This approach coupled with our curriculum design means that language learning is inclusive of pupils of all cultures, faiths, backgrounds and disadvantaged and SEND needs.

We expand the Cultural Capital of our students by embedding their linguistic acquisition within a wide range of knowledge which goes beyond their own cultural experience and sets them up as intercultural citizens. We do this by teaching language contextually within topic areas and using target language to model and encourage students to communicate in the foreign language. We use authentic resources to offer immediacy and relevance to the MFL learning experience.