



WALTHAMSTOW HALL S E N I O R S C H O O L

GERMAN

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

German is an important European language with more than 100 million native speakers.

It is not only spoken in Germany, but also in Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg, as well as areas of Northern Italy, Eastern Belgium and Eastern France. In fact, there are more native speakers of German in Europe than any other language and it is one of the ten most frequently spoken languages in the world. Being a German speaker can significantly improve your career opportunities. Within the European Union it is not only specialists, but also students and scientists, with knowledge of German, who can find interesting training, study and job opportunities. The proximity of Germany to the UK and the strength of its economy mean that it is an important language for business. Last year UK exports to Germany exceeded £19 million pounds. Linguistically, there is also closeness: English is a Germanic language and shares many words with German.

KEY STAGE 3 STUDIES

German is offered as a second Modern Foreign Language to pupils in Year 8. It is taught in the Erasmus Centre, which offers excellent facilities. We make good use of audio-visual and computer equipment in lessons, as well as programmes for independent learning, accessed in school and at home. We have German books and DVDs available in the department and the school library has a number of titles in different languages, such as Harry Potter.

Pupils have three lessons of German per week in Year 8 and four in Year 9. Class sizes are not large, meaning that pupils can receive individual attention, which helps with their learning. In small groups they attend weekly conversation lessons with a native speaker.

In December 2014 and 2016 the German department organised a visit to the German Christmas market in Aachen. German learners in the different year groups are invited and the trip is great fun.



IGCSE

At the end of Year 9 girls may choose to take German as their compulsory Modern Foreign Language, with three lessons in Year 10 and four in Year 11. We will have one class of dual linguists, who study French and German or French and Spanish at IGCSE. There is an increased emphasis on the use of German in class and pupils continue to attend weekly conversation classes with our German Assistant who works with girls to improve oral communication skills and motivation. Girls have an opportunity to take part in a study and cultural visit to a city such as Munich,

which provides the perfect environment to improve their language skills, to visit German pupils in their school and to learn about the history and modern way of life in this fascinating city. In Year 11 girls are encouraged to take part in a four day expedition to Berlin in conjunction with the History department.

Girls in Years 10 and 11 can watch German films, along with films in other languages by attending the Foreign Film Club.



IGCSE RESULTS

Summer 2017: 100% A*-C grades, with 79% achieving grades A*-A and 93% achieving grades A*-B .

GERMAN IN THE SIXTH FORM

AS and A Level are taught in four double lessons per week, totalling eight lessons, plus one individual conversation lesson with a German Language Assistant. Language skills are developed through the study and discussion in German of topics relating to contemporary issues in the German-speaking world, and tested by a variety of multi-skill methods. Sixth Formers are trained to think critically and to support their opinions with reasoned argument. Independently they are encouraged to listen to German as much as possible, via the radio and podcasts, and to read newspapers and books. Students are prepared for examinations in: listening, reading, translation, essay writing and speaking. The study of literature and/or film forms part of the new AS and A level courses.

Our Sixth Form linguists are encouraged to travel and a number of them have embarked on independent language courses, homestays with families and work experience, where 'total immersion' is the key ingredient. We have seen a number of our students

choose to continue to study German at university, combining it with another advanced or beginner-level language, English and Economics, to name just a few.

Head of Modern Foreign Languages, teacher of French and German:

Mrs R. Hunt

German teacher:

Mrs K. Hofmann

German language assistant:

Mrs Sabine Köster



An Aachen chocolate shop window



The city of Berlin



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