



KING JAMES'S
SCHOOL
KNARESBOROUGH

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

LANGUAGES

2025/26

At King James's school, our philosophy in languages is to develop language-learning skills and to promote a cultural awareness that students will take beyond the classroom and be able to use in their future lives.

We want students to understand how language works and we focus on a range of linguistic skills and grammar with the aim of ensuring that students develop independence in their language learning. By encouraging students to take part in engaging speaking activities and to use the target language with a degree of spontaneity, we aim to build students' confidence in communicating in and comprehending the target language.

We aim to foster and develop students' understanding of the people, culture and cultural practices of French and German-speaking countries across the world. We celebrate cultural events such as Bastille Day and Sankt Nikolaus Tag. We also learn about places, key figures, music, politics and literacy, giving students the opportunity to develop their understanding of and empathy for the world around them. This is enhanced further through the opportunity to travel abroad to the Christmas markets in Köln and take part in a German exchange to Bebra.

In **Year 7**, students learn French, building on the language many have begun to learn at primary school. They are introduced to language-learning skills and we aim to develop their ability to understand French through reading and listening, as well as their ability to communicate in French through speaking and writing. Grammar is interleaved gradually so that students feel supported in their learning. Topics covered include 'Introducing Myself', 'Family & Friends', 'House & Town' and 'School & Daily Routine'.

In **Year 8**, all students study German as well as French. This gives them the experience of a very different foreign language and further enhances their language-learning skills. Topics build on those covered in French in Year 7 and include 'Hobbies & Free Time', 'Inviting Out Friends', 'Shops & Shopping' and 'Food & Drink'. In German, we study 'Introducing Myself', 'School', 'Friends & Family' and 'Hobbies & Free Time'.

At the **end of Year 8**, students opt whether to study French or German the following year. Year 9 then serves as the foundation year for the GCSE course, should students choose to continue a language into Years 10 and 11. Topics relate to the experiences of visiting either a French or German-speaking country. French topics include 'Holidays', 'Health' and 'Talking About Future Plans', whilst German topics include 'House & Home', 'Holidays' and 'Food & Drink'.

Students are encouraged to relate topics to their own experiences, using simple and more complex opinion phrases. Grammar is again interleaved alongside the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Cross-curricular skills are exploited – English grammar, mathematical skills, geographical and historical links – all with a clear emphasis on intercultural understanding.

At **KS4**, the knowledge and skills attained at KS3 are developed further. The department follows the AQA specification and covers a range of topics under the themes of 'Identity & Culture', 'Local, National & International Areas of Interest' and 'Current & Future Study and Employment'. There are four externally assessed exams covering the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, with each exam contributing 25% to the final grade. In a spiralling curriculum, grammatical structures and vocabulary are interleaved and revisited within the topics and with new vocabulary. Students are encouraged to develop independence in their learning and embrace challenge with confidence.

At **KS5**, the department follows the AQA specification for both French and German. Students learn to communicate about global issues including 'Issues in Modern Society', 'Multiculturalism', 'Politics', 'Artistic Culture' and 'Diversity in Society'. Students learn not only how to express their own ideas and opinions on these areas but how to challenge opposing viewpoints. Students study a text and a film in the foreign language, examining and analysing the themes and literary techniques. They continue to build upon the grammar attained at GCSE, learning the more subtle nuances of the language, which leads to a greater appreciation of the language they are studying. In undertaking an Individual Research Project, students can focus on exploring a specific area of interest to them relevant to a French or German-speaking country, completing their own research and extending their independent linguistic skills.