

Spanish at Norbury High

Overview

The aim of the MFL Department is to develop confident, motivated, resilient and independent students of Spanish. We aspire to foster a love for learning languages throughout our students' school years and beyond.

Our programme helps to develop a strong cultural awareness of Spanish-speaking countries for students of all backgrounds and abilities. We supplement classroom learning with clubs, visits abroad and other enriching experiences. We help students develop a sound understanding of grammar they can apply in different contexts, e.g. the art of translation, understanding literary texts.

Our approach to delivering the curriculum incorporates careful planning, frequent reviews and scaffolded learning. Material is pitched to a high and challenging standard so that students can feel both supported and proud of their linguistic achievements.

Key Stage 3 Spanish

Year 7

Some students may have studied Spanish in primary school, and some will be starting from scratch. They will use the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing to learn the topics and grammar below:

Topics

- The alphabet, birthdays and numbers; describing yourself, your family and pets
- Talk about the weather, your hobbies and leisure time activities
- Describe your school and the school day; give opinions on school subjects
- Describe other people and talk about where you live
- Describe your town, tell the time and talk about your weekend plans

Grammar

- Indefinite and definite articles
- Adjectives
- Possessive adjectives
- Verbs: present tense, introduction to the near future tense

Year 8

Year 8 students continue to consolidate the topics covered in year 7 and become more competent language learners. Students use the following four skills: Speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students learn about the following topics over the year:

- Describe your holidays
- Opinions on music, TV and mobile phones
- Talking about food, ordering in a restaurant
- Organising a trip out
- Planning a holiday, giving directions

Grammar

- Negatives
- Comparatives and superlatives, adjectives
- Using Usted/ustedes
- Using the imperative
- Verbs: present tense, preterite tense, near future, introduction to the conditional tense

Year 9

Year 9 starts with a recap of vocabulary and the tenses studied in years 7 and 8 to create a solid foundation for using more complex language and grammar to discuss the following:

Topics

- Describing hobbies and leisure time
- Discussing jobs and future plans
- Healthy living and keeping fit
- Human rights, charity and the environment
- Exploring and describing Madrid, conversational phrases for shopping and holidays

Grammar

- Identifying and giving opinions
- Using more complex linguistic structures
- Verbs: imperfect tense, simple future, conditional
- Using past, present and future tenses together

Key Stage 4 Spanish

Pupils will sit Edexcel GCSE Spanish at the end of Year 11 and a speaking test in April. The GCSE course provides students of all abilities with the opportunity to build on the knowledge gained from Key Stage 3. It is designed to help all students develop a passion for languages through culturally engaging content.

Four skills are developed and examined equally. All exams are externally assessed and are tiered. Students sit either foundation or higher level papers.

The four skills are:

- Speaking
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing

Six Themes

During KS4, the following themes are studied in the context of Spanish-speaking countries.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Year 10

Students study five topics related to the GCSE themes, and regularly revise and revisit the topics and grammar from previous years.

Topics

- My personal world: Leisure time; family, friends and relationships
- Media and technology: My digital world
- Travel and tourism: Holidays
- Lifestyle and wellbeing: Diet and exercise
- Studying and my future: School

Grammar

- Adjectival agreements
- Question words; relative pronouns (que, cuando, donde)
- Using comparatives, soler, desde hace, se puede, para + infinitive, hay que, hace falta
- Verbs: reflexives, present, preterite, near and simple future, imperfect and conditional tenses, present continuous
- Using different tenses together

Year 11

Students study three more topics related to the GCSE themes and regularly revise and revisit the topics and grammar from the previous years. They then focus on language skills.

Topics

- My neighbourhood: Describing a local area, with focus on a South American city
- Studying and my future: Describing jobs and discussing personal ambitions
- Lifestyle and wellbeing: The environment

Grammar

- Verbs: perfect tense, imperfect continuous tense, imperative
- Demonstrative adjectives (este, esta etc)
- Present subjunctive
- The passive
- Using a range of tenses together
- Varying vocabulary choices and using more complex language

Skills

- Translation practice and techniques
- Speaking: conversation and photo description
- Writing: exam-style questions
- Listening and comprehension skills using exam questions