Edition 7
February
2026

MFL YEAR 8 Curriculum Newsletter

Contact

Carina Borges
WPT MFL Subject Director
c.borges@thrybergh.com

Curriculum Intent

The MFL curriculum is designed to empower students to draw maximum cultural, personal and economic benefit from the role of global citizenship. Through the promotion of oracy, expansion of vocabulary and literacy we seek to enable students to communicate confidently and without barriers in a wide range of social settings and media. In KS3 we believe that our curriculum and enrichment content goes far beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum allowing for a seamless transition on their GCSE course once they are in Y10.

In order to do this the MFL curriculum is sequenced to allow knowledge and skills to develop simultaneously and progressively. By revisiting and enhancing key language skills in different settings students develop their ability to recall, analyse and evaluate usage and at the same time build independence and resilience.

We have a duty to ensure our students understand and engage with other cultures and traditions in a respectful and inquisitive manner which will allow them to become more open-minded, empathetic and adaptable to new experiences in the future at home or abroad. Ultimately, we aim to foster in our students a love of languages by nurturing a linguistic curiosity, their self-efficacy and an intrinsic motivation to explore and respect other languages, cultures and people.

Year 8 French Curriculum

Students study both Spanish and French in Year 8 for the first term giving them access to a broad curriculum which explores languages and cultures from across the world. After Christmas, students specialise in either French or Spanish, allowing them to explore their chosen language in a more detailed and deeper manner. The topics covered in Year 8 allow students to discover new vocabulary and revisit essential structures through a range of exciting and culturally relevant topics.

Food and Opinions

In this topic, students learn all about typical foods from the French speaking world and how to describe their usual diet, give opinions and justify their opinions on food and drink.

Ratatouille

Students have the opportunity to study a French film. Lessons are dedicated to learning key vocabulary designed to enable students to describe characters and develop their opinions on the film. This topic brings the learning to life for students, allowing them to develop their listening and speaking skills and see the language they are studying bought to life on the big screen.

Trip to a Resturant

The aim of this topic is to ensure all students are able to use essential vocabulary to order food in a restaurant, a must for any budding linguist. Students build on their understanding of different foods and drinks, learn how to ask for things and see how the language can be used in a real-life setting.

Countries and Nationalities

This topic allows students to describe where they come from and where they live as well as discover a bit more about the French speaking world, whilst revisiting family members and adjectival agreements.

Present Tense Holidays

This topic enables students to describe their usual holiday habits in detail and narrate events. They learn to describe where they go, who with and how they get there as well as what they usually do. This topic also reviews present tense verbs as well as further extends students' knowledge of the Spanish speaking world. We use the film Le Petit Nicolas en vacances to reinforce the language learnt.

Future Holiday Plans

This topic builds on the holidays knowledge and introduces students to the future tense and describing events that are yet to take place. Students are also challenged to use "when" clauses and weather phrases.

My Town

Throughout this topic students build on their ability to describe where they are from and where they live and start to zoom into their town and French speaking towns. They learn to describe what facilities there are and give detailed opinions and reasons on a range of towns and features.

Giving Directions

In this topic, students learn to understand and give directions to different places in town further building their knowledge of places in town as well as being introduced to directions and prepositions.

Fluency Skills

Throughout the year we have dedicated lessons based on retrieval of previous topics and confidence building. Students have the opportunity to reflect on previous learning and link all key skills with the aim of improving their fluency and self-efficacy.

Year 8 Spanish Curriculum

Some of the topics we cover in Year 8 are:

Coco

Students have the opportunity to study a Spanish film. Lessons are dedicated to learning key vocabulary designed to enable students to describe characters and develop their opinions on the film. This topic brings the learning to life for students, allowing them to develop their listening and speaking skills and see the language they are studying bought to life on the big screen.

Countries and Nationalities

This topic allows students to describe where they come from and where they live as well as discover a bit more about the Spanish speaking world, whilst revisiting family members and adjectival agreements.

My Town

Throughout this topic students build on their ability to describe where they are from and where they live and start to zoom into their town and Spanish speaking towns. They learn to describe what facilities there are and give detailed opinions and reasons on a range of towns and features.

Giving Directions

In this topic, students learn to understand and give directions to different places in town further building their knowledge of places in town as well as being introduced to directions and prepositions.

Present Tense Holidays

This topic enables students to describe their usual holiday habits in detail and narrate events. They learn to describe where they go, who with and how they get there as well as what they usually do. This topic also reviews present tense verbs as well as further extends students' knowledge of the Spanish speaking world.

Future Holiday Plans

This topic builds on the holidays knowledge and introduces students to the future tense and describing events that are yet to take place. Students are also challenged to use "when" clauses and weather phrases.

Food and Opinions

In this topic, students learn all about typical foods from the Spanish speaking world and how to describe their usual diet, give opinions and justify their opinions on food and drink.

Trip to a Restaurant

The aim of this topic is to ensure all students are able to use essential vocabulary to order food in a restaurant, a must for any budding linguist. Students build on their understanding of different foods and drinks, learn how to ask for things and see how the language can be used in a real-life setting.

Fluency Skills

Throughout the year we have dedicated lessons based on retrieval of previous topics and confidence building. Students have the opportunity to reflect on previous learning and link all key skills with the aim of improving their fluency and self-efficacy.

Assessment Points

In Year 8, students are assessed after each module in class, on a range of listening, reading, speaking or writing skills. The Summative Assessments take place in January and June.

Immerse Yourself

Language Nut

KS3 MFL Seneca

BBC Bitesize KS3 MFL

- Interactive Homework
- Study Guides and Videos
- Independent Study

All of the topics we cover in MFL have sentence builders which contains all the vocabulary

students need to succeed in their language lessons. The sentence builder shows students how to link words

into sentences with the added support of English translations.

These resources, along with the languagenut website, are essential tools that students can use to supplement their language learning and aid revision. All our Y8 homework will be set via languagenut. Students have been given their log in and password details and these are also in their google classroom but please get in touch if you have any access issues.

Test Your Knowledge with Quizlet...

Quizlet's Y8 MFL revision flashcards are a fantastic way to memorise relevant french and spanish terms to help you with your studies. Click on a flag below to start!

Praise and Reward

Our rewards system can be broadly split into four categories: classroom level, subject level, school level and privilege rewards. We'll focus on classroom and subject rewards here - for more information about our rewards schemes, please see our website.

CLASSROOM LEVEL REWARDS

Awarded for: working hard, taking risks and rising to a challenge, making mistakes and learning from them, helping others, and taking pride in the school community.

Rewarded by: praise postcards, positive phone calls to parents/carers, positive text messages home, and lesson based prizes.

SUBJECT LEVEL REWARDS

Reward scheme: Star of the Week, Curriculum Awards (Subject/School Way, Participation, Working with Pride, Embracing the Whole Curriculum), High Flyer, Extra Mile, Most Improved.

Rewarded by: names displayed on reward boards, certificates, social media posts.

Broadening Horizons

In MFL we aim to foster a learning environment supporting students to become global citizens. Our use of cultural resources helps to bring the language to life in the classroom, creating cultural experiences for all. Outside of language lessons there are opportunities for students to develop an awareness and love of different cultures.

In Literacy, we look at a range of cultural topics such as; Day of the Dead, Tour de France and Bullfighting. We celebrate European Languages Day, offering different opportunities for students to take part in activities such as quizzes, karaoke and food tasting.

In addition, we have a range of clubs providing students weekly sessions in cultures from around the world.

Coco - A Spanish Film Study

A Boy Who Dreams Of becoming A Great Musician embarks on an extraordinary journey to the magical land of his ancestors. There, the charming trickster Hector becomes an unexpected friend who helps Miguel uncover the mysteries behind his family's stories and traditions.

Ratatouille - A French Film Study

A rat named Remy dreams of becoming a great chef despite his family's wishes, and the obvious problem of being a rat in a decidedly rodent-phobic profession. When fate places Remy in the sewers of Paris, he finds himself ideally situated beneath a restaurant made famous by his culinary hero, Auguste Gusteau. Remy's passion for cooking soon sets into motion a hilarious and exciting rat race that turns the world of Paris upside down.

Careers

We run a series of 'Careers in the Curriculum' weeks in our school. For Modern Foreign Languages, this week takes place in February. During MFL lessons, we investigate languages around the world and the importance of language learning in the global jobs market. Careers lessons raise students' awareness and understanding of where languages can take you.

Creative Multilingualism aimed to encourage young people in the UK to be ambitious and to think creatively about the career possibilities languages open up. Check out the youtube short by clicking on the logo below.

creative multilingualism

The MFL Way

Our subject has a 'Subject Way' at the heart of it. Our Subject Way is designed to help students become young subject specialists. The MFL Way is followed in all of our lessons and has two main purposes:

Firstly, to teach students the vital skills they need to achieve their full potential and gain the very best grades they can. Secondly, to teach students how each subject relates to the wider world, incorporating the life skills they will learn.

Have Your Say...

At WPT we're always looking for feedback. If you have any thoughts/opinions on this Curriculum Newsletter, its content or the curriculum in general, please click on the title to fill out a short feedback form.