

MFL at Pittville School

'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.' Frank Smith (British psychologist and academic)

Here at Pittville the study of Modern Foreign Languages enables learners to understand and communicate with people around the world. We want our learners to be able to articulate their ideas in a range of scenarios and to have the confidence to do so. Furthermore, we aim to reinforce that learning a foreign language enhances literacy and communication skills in English and will provide learners with opportunities beyond their everyday experiences. We want to inspire curiosity about, and an appreciation of, the culture and the way of life of the people living in the countries where the languages we teach are spoken, as well as encourage learners to be citizens of not just this country, but of their world.

To achieve our vision for MFL at Pittville we design our curriculum around the 3 pillars of language learning: phonics, vocabulary, and grammar. We expose learners to a variety of different scenarios to practice both the receptive skills, reading and listening, and the productive skills, speaking and writing. Retrieval, purposeful practice, and application is at the heart of everything we do as this is the only way to reinforce what students have learnt and give them the confidence to succeed. In KS3 we give students the building blocks they need to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the language if chosen at KS4. After 5 years of language study, we aim for students to be competent language learners with the grounding they need to develop fluency if they wish to continue their language learning journey.

We are currently in the position of redesigning our curriculum offer so all students study one language in Yr 7 and then those with an aptitude for languages pick up a second language in Yr 8. All students will study at least 1 language until the end of year 9 and many students go on to opt for a language GCSE course.

For students who take a GCSE language we run 2 trips in Year 10, one to Arras, a medieval town in Normandy where students learn about traditional French culture and one to Barcelona, where students can experience the excitement of a vibrant yet equally historical city.

We regularly play host to groups of foreign language students from Inlingua in Cheltenham who are paired up with our pupils during the school day to be immersed in Pittville School life. This is incredibly beneficial for our students to practice their language skills.

We are a growing department with a dedicated and hard-working team who believe that languages are for all.