



A Parent's guide to MFL @PHS



Your child is currently doing the first or second year of their GCSE in French, German or Spanish. It is important to remember that they have already covered a lot of the content since Year 7, especially in Year 9.

As a school we follow the AQA syllabus and examinations. There are 4 skills of assessment: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing which will all be tested at the end of Year 11. Each skill is 25% of the final grade. Students will be entered for either Foundation or Higher tier.

There are 3 main themes:

- **Theme 1 – Identity and culture** (me, my family and friends; technology in everyday life; free time and activities; customs and festivals)
- **Theme 2 – Local, national, international and global areas of interest** (home, town, neighbourhood and region; social issues (charity, voluntary work, healthy lifestyles); global issues (environment, poverty, homelessness); travel and tourism)
- **Theme 3 – Current and future study and employment** (my studies; life at school/college; education post-16; jobs, career choices and ambitions)

It is really important that students **complete independent learning** as well as classwork and home learning tasks. They should dedicate some time each week to learning and consolidating vocabulary.

Here is how parents can help (even if you don't speak the language!):

- Involve you in vocabulary testing:
 - take a vocabulary list and see how many words they can remember on a given subtopic in a set amount of time
 - read the English vocabulary for your child to translate
- Ask them some of the general conversation questions to practise their interaction and responding naturally to questions (if they have to correct your pronunciation this is even better practice for them!)
- Watch a film/TV series in another language together – many DVDs and streaming services allow you to change the audio language, even if the original is in English
- Ask your child to teach you something they have learned that week
- Buy a bi-lingual dictionary and encourage your child to use it instead of online translators

Revision techniques. Encourage your child to...

- Create mind maps to revise themes and subtopics
- Make revision cards before assessments or exams. They could use different colours to distinguish word classes (noun, adjective, verb etc...)
- Use the tried and tested "look, cover, write, check" technique for practising spellings that they will have used in primary school
- Choose a topic and talk about it for one minute
- Use sticky notes to revise key vocabulary or phrases
- Use learning app to revise through playing games (see section on useful websites)
- Play word association games
- Put up posters around the home (fridge, bedroom, toilet etc...) with key verbs and tenses
- Record answers on their phone and listen to them (at home, on the bus, in the shower etc...)

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Ideas to support general language learning skills:

- Watch a TV show or film in the target language with subtitles in English (Netflix allows different languages on a majority of programmes)
- Get books, magazines, leaflets when you're on holiday abroad
- Download interactive language learning apps and games and use them as a family
- Ask your child to teach you something they have learnt in their MFL lesson that week
- Look for most popular singers and bands from other countries and play music in the foreign language at home (follow Mrs Ferrandon-Latch's YouTube playlist – [musique pour la classe de français](#))
- Encourage your child to use dictionaries (paper or online versions – we recommend www.wordreference.com) instead of translators. Online translators will give you the most common translations of a word without considering the context or any alternative meanings. For example, "book" can mean different things: a literary composition that is published or intended for publication, an action of reserving a flight or hotel, to record the fowl made by a player by the referee, a set of stamps or tickets...
- Follow the MFL departmental Twitter accounts for news and tips (@MonsieurFarrell, @PH_rench, @PHS_Panish, @PHS_GERMAN)

Useful websites

Active Learn: we subscribe to the Pearson online activities. Students are used to using it in class and for home learning. Please contact your child's language teacher for a reminder of their login details. www.pearsonactivelearn.com

Memrise.com / Quizlet.com: free websites that most of our students have already joined in class and can practise easily with at home. Teachers have set their own courses but many others are available too

Lightbulblanguages.co.uk: many resources available here <https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/>

Lyrics training: practise your listening and karaoke skills here : <https://lyricstraining.com/>

BBC bitesize: one of the most complete set of revision material in all subjects
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zhsvr82>

The National Oak Academy: this was open to schools and individual students during the pandemic and contains all topics at GCSE in all subjects not just MFL.
https://www.thenational.academy/?gclid=EAlalQobChMlxque0ZH08AIVB4FQBh3AfADpEAAYASAAEgJyk_D_BwE

General language apps:

These are free or have in-app purchases available, double check the automatic renewal subscription price plans before you subscribe. (Some can be very expensive!)

<https://www.babbel.com/>

Duolingo

Langagenut

Busuu