



German Lower Sixth IB Higher

Curriculum Intent

The German department seeks to develop ambitious and resilient linguists who strive to gain inter-cultural understanding in the countries where German is spoken. We aim to enable students to communicate effectively in a range of topics and contexts whilst being enthusiastic about the culture and customs of the German-speaking world. We intend to build our students up to be inquisitive and curious about culture, knowledgeable and understanding as they step out to explore, and reflective as they see how they grow and develop through Foreign Language learning.

“Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenze meiner Welt.“ **Ludwig Wittgenstein**

Students will learn:

Extensive grammar knowledge so that they are able to use German for a variety of purposes.

The course has five themes, all of which are covered in the Lower Sixth and explored in more depth in the Upper Sixth. All five link to Theory of Knowledge throughout.

Theme 1: Identities – who I am; health and wellbeing; values and beliefs; ourselves and others.

Theme 2: Experiences – influences that shape us; a culinary journey; festivals and traditions; a lust for life.

Theme 3: Human ingenuity – television and audience power; German cinema; music today; advertising.

Theme 4: Social organisation – the digital world; youth today and those around them; school; the legal world.

Theme 5: A planet for everyone – man as a global consumer; man in nature; fellow man; man and energy.

During the course, personal, professional and mass-media text are covered. The students also study the play *Andorra* by Max Frisch in depth for the speaking examination.

What does excellence look like?

- confident and accurate use of German with varied vocabulary and structures, including complex language
- critical analysis of issues, themes and cultural or social contexts demonstrated through convincing interpretations
- consistent use of evidence to justify points of view
- detailed, logical arguments and conclusions that consistently link together

Knowledge, understanding and skills:

- ✓ understanding and evaluating a wide range of written and spoken authentic personal, professional and mass-media texts, identifying gist and detail
- ✓ initiating and maintaining a conversation, displaying an ability to make adjustments to style or emphasis
- ✓ writing for different audiences
- ✓ using a variety of strategies to maintain the flow of conversation and discussion on a variety of topics
- ✓ responding to spoken text in writing, showing understanding of the main points, gist and detail
- ✓ continuing to develop knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, as well as a conceptual understanding of how language works
- ✓ developing critical thinking about language via Theory of Knowledge
- ✓ analysing and evaluating extracts of literary texts, offering a spoken commentary
- ✓ relating literary texts to social context and issues

How can you enhance your learning at home?

- *Deutsch im Einsatz* German textbook for International Baccalaureate Language B
- Hodder study guide on *Andorra*
- Online resources including:
 - *Deutsche Welle* Learn German
 - Goethe-Institut
 - *Spiegel* online
 - *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* online
 - News in Slow German
 - Grimm Grammar
 - Languages Online
 - Quizlet
- Bank of written materials
- Bank of topic-based questions
- ZigZag resources for reading and listening
- Flipped learning



How will we assess impact?

Our teaching encourages regular learning of key vocabulary and refinement of grammatical structures. Teachers assess students less formally in class through the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Students work collaboratively in pairs and groups constantly to improve their speaking skills, providing peer feedback.

Each half term students take an assessment in test conditions. At the end of the Lower Sixth year, students take a full-length IB-style examination, which helps to predict their final grade accurately and to offer them an opportunity to experience the speed and attention to detail required.

Matriculation requirements

To be able to access the IB Higher course, students should have gained a grade 6 in GCSE German, or the same level in an equivalent qualification.

International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

In the Spring term of the Lower Sixth, all pupils must complete a work experience placement. We offer all students of German the opportunity to undertake a two-week work placement in Frankfurt. Previous work placements have included primary schools, shops and restaurants. Pupils stay with a family to give them the optimal opportunity to improve their language skills and better to understand the culture.

Since this is an exchange programme, each student's partner also stays here for two weeks, whilst completing their own work placement. This gives students the opportunity to make international connections that last beyond their time at school and throughout their lives.

Within the curriculum

The IB Language B German curriculum is designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of German-speaking countries and cultures through five themes. Theme 1 covers identities in Germany and relations to other nationalities; Theme 2 looks at multiculturalism, travel, food and festivals and traditions; Theme 3 includes German music, television and cinema; Theme 4 looks at education and law in Germany; and Theme 5 covers environmentalism and energy policy.

Pupils are also encouraged to consider global issues within the German context, applying the critical thinking skills acquired through Theory of Knowledge. We use authentic materials frequently, including literary texts, to provide an immersive experience of the language and culture.

