



German Upper 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 Sprache ist die Kleidung der Gedanken“ **Samuel Johnson**

Students will learn:

Extensive grammar knowledge for a variety of purposes.

The course has five themes. Themes 1 to 3, along with the play *Andorra* by Max Frisch, will be revisited in the Upper Sixth. Themes 4 and 5 are covered this year, as is the play *Der Besuch der alten Dame* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

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. Extensive revision, skills-focused work and projects help to prepare for the final IB 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 guides on *Andorra* and *Der Besuch der alten Dame*
- Online resources including:
 - *Deutsche Welle* Learn German
 - Goethe-Institut
 - *Spiegel* online
 - *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* online
 - News in Slow German
 - Grimm Grammar
 - 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. In January of the Upper Sixth year, students take a full-length IB-style examination, which helps to predict their final grade accurately and to offer the students an opportunity to experience the speed and attention to detail required. A mock speaking examination in December prepares them for the real assessment, which takes place in March.

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

Options for visits to Germany in the Upper Sixth are more limited. Our Upper Sixth students act as ambassadors for our visits programme, encouraging younger students to be brave and to seize the opportunity to stay with a German-speaking family or to undertake work experience abroad.

Many of our German A level students took part in the long-term visit to Frankfurt in year 10 or the work experience visit in the Lower Sixth and continue to meet their partners for years to come.

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.

