



### **KS3 Modern Foreign Languages Newsletter for Students and Parents**

The MFL Department at Tavistock College believes that languages are becoming ever more important in an increasingly connected world. The skills, knowledge and understanding developed through the delivery of the MFL curriculum are an integral part of a young person's all-round education forging the competencies needed to enter the work place at the end of their full time education. Furthermore, the increased understanding of other cultures helps students to develop greater awareness of the wider modern society.

We aim to provide students, regardless of ability, with enjoyable, practical skills in their Modern Foreign Language. In Year 7, students have the opportunity to experience the three languages offered; French, Spanish and Japanese through a curriculum that has been designed to give them a firm basis in the basic skills need to learn a language and linking strongly with the whole school literacy focus. In Year 8 and 9, students specialise in a language that is best suited to their needs and strengths. We aspire to give students the necessary skills and confidence to continue into KS4, and even KS5.

Through a motivating and encouraging atmosphere, we strive to inspire students to achieve in all the skill areas; reading, writing, listening and speaking. We encourage them to take risks in an environment where students can feel safe to learn from their mistakes and develop a mutually supporting relationship with their peers and their teachers. We endeavour to do this through careful questioning, peer- and self- assessment, as well as through interactive methods of teaching and learning. Students are encouraged to develop their confidence to assess their own progress and to set themselves targets to improve enabling students to increase their motivation and aspiration to learn and make sustained improvement. Students are taught from the beginning of Year 7 to recognise the criteria for quality work and acquire the necessary skills to assess and improve their own work.



**We expect all students to follow these basic classroom rules:**

- Arrive on time, with the necessary books and equipment
- Enter the classroom quietly and prepare to start work immediately
- The classroom is a place of learning. Concentrate hard on your own work and allow others to learn
- Show respect to everyone
- Treat others, their work and equipment with respect
- Listen to the views or comments of others, even if different from your own
- Listen when your teacher is talking and follow all instructions without fussing
- Use appropriate language at all times
- Complete all work to the best of your ability, present work neatly and accurately and meet all deadlines

All students are expected to arrive in the correct uniform and mobile phones and earphones are to be in their bags.

Quite often we see students turning up to lessons without the necessary equipment. All students should ideally have a pencil case with a black pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, coloured pens or pencils and a ruler. I would also recommend getting a bi-lingual learning dictionary which can be found cheaply online. Students can also access [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) for European Languages and [www.jpf.org.uk](http://www.jpf.org.uk)

## Your exercise books are your biggest tool!!

Be proud of them and make sure that everything you put in it is of the very best quality and shows off the 100% effort you have put in! You will need it to help you learn and improve.

We will expect your exercise books to be:

- Neat
- Organised
- No graffiti
- The date, weather and LO written in every lesson
- Any sheets neatly stuck in



The consequence for not doing any of the above is that you will be re-doing any untidy work. So make sure you use your neatest hand writing!

You are expected to have your exercise book every lesson. If you don't, you will be in detention and an equipment point logged.

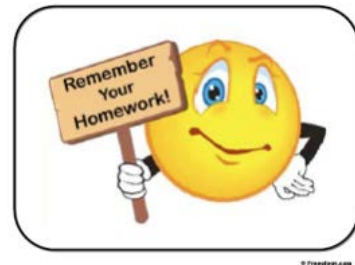
Books will be marked regularly and you will be expected to go back through and look for the feedback given and any questions to answer as well as make improvements to your work to show you have made progress.

If you are away it is your responsibility to ask your teacher about what you missed and catch up on any work.

## Consequences

- You will receive one warning if you are doing something you shouldn't or you are not working as you should be
- If you are spoken to again you will receive an amber board. This means that it will be logged on the system as behaviour points, a phone call made home by your teacher and a 20 minute detention at the next break or lunch
- If you are spoken to again you will be parked. Rather than have you disrupt the learning of the rest of the class you will be sent to work somewhere else. It will be logged on the system and this will trigger behaviour points and an after school detention. Your teacher will ring home and you will also receive a 20 minute detention with your teacher. Your Head of Year will be speaking to you as well as the Head of Faculty
- If a pattern of bad behaviour is seen you will be put on Faculty Report Card and your parents will be called in
- Everyone has the right to learn and teach in a positive environment without silly interruptions!





## Home Learning

Home learning is important in Languages. It will help you consolidate what you've learned in class, give you the time to learn it off by heart and will aid in your progress. The more words you know the more a language you will be able to access. Check out the Vocabulary Learning Strategies in this newsletter.

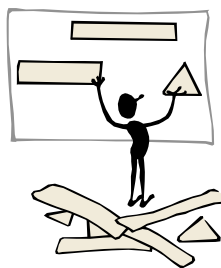
In KS3 you will be given homework every two weeks and given one week in which to do your homework. The majority of your homework in Languages will be learning work. You will be required to learn 7 pieces of new vocabulary or grammar and you will also be given 3 challenge questions to use the words you have learned to demonstrate understanding.

You will be tested on every homework and the pass mark is 7/10. If you do not achieve this you will be re-tested in the next lesson. You will be given advice on learning techniques.

You are expected to put effort into your home learning and produce work of quality.

Failure to do homework on time, without a valid reason and a note from home, will result in a detention to do the homework and behaviour points will be logged.

If you are away you are expected to find out what the homework is and your teacher will be able to give you any missed vocabulary. All homework will be logged on SIMs and you and your parents will be able to view it via SIMs gateway.



## End Point Tasks

At the end of every module there will be an 'End Point Task' which will test everything you've been learning. Here are some top tips:

- Tell your parents! Get someone at home involved in your revision. They don't have to understand what you're doing to help you prepare flashcards and test you on key vocabulary
- Remember you are not alone. There is always somebody to support you. It is a team effort!
- Attend any revision sessions and master classes
- 'Little and often' will go a long way to helping you get the mark you would like!
- Look at the Vocabulary Learning Strategy sheet - don't do everything at once! It can be overwhelming and can knock your confidence!
- Be honest! Know your strengths and weaknesses. What skill area do you need to work on more? What topic area are you least confident with?
- Don't let yourself or your teacher down by wasting your time by not trying hard! Listen to the advice that you are being given

## Useful Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>  
[www.languagesonline.org.uk/](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/)  
[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com)  
[www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com)  
[www.jpf.org.uk](http://www.jpf.org.uk)

