



Didcot Girls' School

Modern Languages Department

Modern Foreign Language Assistant – Spanish

Introduction

Foreign Language Assistants are an invaluable resource for the Department, and you are of immense help in developing our pupils' language skills, especially in conversation.

Our students consider it a privilege to work with you and will respect you as a teacher and as an ambassador for your country.

Colleagues consider your presence invaluable to their work and will often ask for your advice and help.

We all need to practice our languages! Please always use your language with both students and colleagues to maximise opportunities.

Key Responsibilities

The Modern Foreign Language Assistant is responsible for:

- Leading small group work with students at Key Stages 4 and 5
- Supporting students with examination practice and development of speaking skills
- Planning lessons and preparing resources in liaison with class teachers
- Following the relevant schemes of work and success criteria for Spanish GCSE and A-Level courses in liaison with class teachers
- Providing language teaching within a cultural context by providing links with Spanish speaking countries and using authentic materials
- Delivering lessons in the Target Language

Key Stage 5

You will work with students from Years 12 and 13 (16-18 years old) individually. You need to prepare conversation classes carefully, hopefully using as many authentic

stimulus resources as possible. The main aim of these classes is communication in Spanish.

You should work on the following:

General conversation

This will start at an elementary level and build up gradually. Students might be reluctant to speak at first, so it is worth your while thinking of strategies to encourage them. Avoid resorting to English or allowing them to speak in English. Cases of extreme reluctance to use the target language should be discussed with the class teachers or the Head of MFL.

It is important that they feel encouraged to communicate clearly and fluently, to develop their ideas and express a range of opinions orally. Grammatical accuracy should not be the focus, however consistent or persistent misunderstandings should be reported to the class teachers.

You are expected to give students positive and constructive feedback using the Department checklist.

Conversation topics must be linked to the AQA A-Level syllabus and should always go beyond mere factual statements and descriptions. Expect and help students to express their opinions, to react, to make judgements, to debate, etc.

Background knowledge

Include as much background knowledge about Spanish speaking countries as you can to inform students of contemporary political, cultural and social events/issues.

Individual Research Project (Year 13 only)

Each student must research a chosen topic relating to the Spanish speaking world which is of particular interest to them. They will need your help in the preparation and rehearsal of this. The class teacher will specifically guide you on this during the year.

Key Stage 4

You may be attached to Year 11 (15-16 years old) and Year 10 (14-15 years old). The class teacher will specify exactly what they would like you to do. This may involve supporting in the classroom or taking out small groups for conversation practice.