

German Curriculum Overview

Nearly 100 million people in Europe speak German as their native language; Germany is the most populous nation in the EU, with some 84.5 million inhabitants.

Our vision

- All language learners develop the skills and confidence to consider themselves global citizens who belong in a multicultural, mutually respectful world.
- All students can understand other countries and cultures, making them more open and adaptable to new experiences.
- Each topic contains an element of cultural reference to not only the target-language country, but also the wider German-speaking world.

Our mission

- To foster a love of languages and an outward-looking world view by nurturing linguistic curiosity and an intrinsic motivation to explore and respect other cultures and people.
- To equip students with active and passive linguistic skills, and to enable them to gain a grasp of German-speaking cultural trends.
- To ensure that students actively combine new learning content with previous, increasing their language learning manageably, sustainably and durably.

Curriculum overview

Key Stage 3

- Create a strong language + grammar foundation and a secure basis for receptive and expressive language skills.
- Develop spirally: visit and revisit topics and grammar points to ensure repeated exposure to key material.
- Secure interest through cultural capital: KS3 culminates in a five-day trip to Germany for the whole cohort at the end of Year 9.

Key Stage 4

- Sustain the influence of the 2016–24 GCSE, going beyond the 2024– specification in order to bridge the gap to the demands of A-level.
- A wide range of topics designed to prepare students for real-life situations when they may need to use German in situ (e.g. ordering a meal, booking a hotel room, buying food or purchasing tickets) as well as furthering their knowledge of German culture and lifestyle (e.g. customs and traditions, media, music and celebrity culture).
- Secure interest through cultural capital: optional exchanges (real and online) in Year 10; Year 11 pre-mocks trip to Aachen planned from 2025.

Key Stage 5

- Extend students' grammatical knowledge with a high emphasis on improving oral fluency, including weekly speaking language assistant sessions.
- Challenge students to increase their knowledge of the German world (cultural heritage, politics and the unique German history) as well as German perspectives on global issues such as racism, integration and immigration.
- Encourage independent reading, research and critical thinking using original target language resources, culminating in the Independent Research Project that students submit as part of their A-level speaking exam.

KS3 German Curriculum

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Autumn Term 1	<p>Meine Welt und ich Introductions, where you live, character, belongings</p> <p>Grammar definite and indefinite articles; <i>haben, sein</i> and <i>wohnen</i>; possessive pronouns; connectors and qualifiers</p>	<p>Ferien Places then and now, holidays, weather</p> <p>Grammar imperfect tense (<i>hatte, war</i> and <i>es gab</i>); perfect tense</p>	<p>Vorbilder Role models, experiences, parts of the body, overcoming misfortune</p> <p>Grammar the present tense; the perfect tense; the imperative</p>
Autumn Term 2	<p>Familie und Tiere Pets, family, colours, birthdays</p> <p>Grammar <i>können</i>; plural endings; adjective endings; verb inversion; ordinal numbers with correct endings; question words</p>	<p>Medien Film preferences, TV programmes, reading preferences, screen time</p> <p>Grammar questions in the perfect tense, dative prepositions, modal verbs</p>	<p>Musik Types of music, playing or singing in a band, listening to bands, music festivals</p> <p>Grammar nominative and accusative pronouns; <i>seit</i>; comparatives; perfect tense separable verbs</p>
Spring Term 1	<p>Freizeit Sports, free time, technology, friendships</p> <p>Grammar <i>gern</i>; <i>fahren, lesen, sehen</i>; correct word order (TMP + verb 2nd); time indicators</p>	<p>Gesundheit Typical breakfasts, traditional German food, recipes, healthy lifestyles</p> <p>Grammar <i>essen</i> and <i>nehmen</i>; the imperative (<i>du</i> form); the modal verb <i>müssen</i>,</p>	<p>Meine Ambitionen Crazy ambitions, reasons for doing jobs, future plans, work in a ski resort</p> <p>Grammar the conditional tense; <i>um ... zu</i>; word order, <i>in</i> and <i>auf</i></p>
Spring Term 2	<p>Schule School subjects, days and times, teachers, school facilities and rules, dream school</p> <p>Grammar <i>weil</i>; word order; <i>in, an, auf, neben</i></p>	<p>Klassenreisen Rules, daily routines, directions, festivals</p> <p>Grammar the modal verbs <i>dürfen</i> and <i>müssen</i>; reflexive and separable verbs; adjective endings</p>	<p>Die Kindheit Childhood and activities, primary and secondary school, Grimm's fairy tales</p> <p>Grammar <i>als, wenn</i> and <i>wann</i>; (modal) verbs in the imperfect tense; the superlative</p>
Summer Term 1	<p>Reisen In town, shopping, exam preparation (writing and speaking)</p> <p>Grammar <i>es gibt</i>; (<i>k</i>)<i>ein</i>; <i>ich möchte</i></p>	<p>Wir gehen aus Clothes and styles, plans for a date, exam preparation (writing and speaking)</p> <p>Grammar <i>wenn</i> clauses; the future tense</p>	<p>Rechte und Pflichten Age limits, what is important to us, exam preparation (writing and speaking)</p> <p>Grammar subordinating and coordinating conjunctions</p>
Summer Term 2	<p>Reisen Snacks and drinks; holiday plans; extended writing</p> <p>Grammar future tense with <i>werden</i>; more on <i>gern</i></p>	<p>Wir gehen aus Getting ready to go out, how the date went, uniforms</p> <p>Grammar future tense; more on <i>gern</i></p>	<p>Rechte und Pflichten Life now and in the past, making a difference</p> <p>Grammar past, present and future tenses; <i>um...zu</i></p>

KS4 German Curriculum

	Year 10	Year 11
Autumn Term 1	<p>People and lifestyle Identity and relationships with others</p> <p>Grammar present tense (including regular, irregular, reflexive and separable verbs); <i>zu</i> + infinitive; gender; plural nouns</p>	<p>Communication and the world around us Travel and tourism, including places of interest</p> <p>Grammar revising the perfect and imperfect tenses; <i>es gibt / es gab</i>; verbal nouns; avoiding the passive; indefinite pronouns (<i>niemand</i> and <i>jemand</i>); singular and plural IOPs; relative pronouns (revision)</p>
Autumn Term 2	<p>People and lifestyle Healthy living and lifestyle</p> <p>Grammar the perfect tense; <i>seit</i> + present tense; imperfect tense of <i>sein</i>; (<i>k</i>)<i>ein</i> (nominative and accusative); possessive adjectives; <i>sondern</i></p>	<p>Communication and the world around us Media and technology</p> <p>Grammar separable verbs in the perfect tense; mixed tense revision; <i>als</i> and <i>so...wie</i>; dative reflexive pronouns (revision); superlatives; prepositions followed by accusative; prepositions followed by dative; two-way prepositions (accusative or dative)</p>
Spring Term 1	<p>People and lifestyle Education and work</p> <p>Grammar the imperfect and perfect tenses; coordinating and subordinating conjunctions; relative clauses (nominative and accusative); word order (v2); DOP and IOP</p>	Speaking activities and mock revision
Spring Term 2	<p>Popular culture Free-time activities</p> <p>Grammar future tense with <i>werden</i>; <i>wissen</i> (present tense); <i>mögen</i> (including <i>ich möchte</i>), <i>wollen</i>; <i>gern/lieber</i>; <i>bei/am</i> + infinitive as noun; question words; demonstrative adjectives (<i>dies-</i>)</p>	<p>Communication and the world around us The environment and where people live</p> <p>Grammar revising modal verbs: <i>ohne / statt zu</i>; choosing the correct tense; the imperative; indefinite adjectives; 'it', 'them' and 'what' with prepositions; adjective endings; genitive prepositions</p>
Summer Term 1	<p>Popular culture Customs, festivals and celebrations</p> <p>Grammar modal verbs; conditional clauses; TMP; subordinate clauses; negatives (<i>nicht</i> and <i>nie</i>)</p>	<p>Speaking exam</p> <p>Revision Past papers</p>
Summer Term 2	<p>Popular culture Celebrity culture</p> <p>Grammar perfect tense (revision); uses of <i>werden</i>; modals in the imperfect tense; adjective endings (nominative and accusative); adjectival nouns; dative reflexive pronouns</p>	

KS5 German Curriculum

	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term 1	<p>Aspects of German-speaking society Artistic culture in the German-speaking world <i>Familie im Wandel, das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute</i> Grammar present tense; perfect tense; future tense; modal verbs; word formation and order; prepositions with cases; adjective endings; infinitive constructions; imperfect subjunctive in conditional clauses</p>	<p>Multiculturalism in German-speaking society Set book <i>Einwanderung, die Verwandlung</i> (Franz Kafka) Grammar weak masculine nouns; complex adjectival phrases; adjective endings Background and characters, key themes; artistic purpose, style and Kafka's narrative methods; reintroduction to critical and analytical essay writing</p>
Autumn Term 2	<p>Aspects of German-speaking society <i>Die digitale Welt, Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen</i> Grammar word order (inversion, TMP); prepositions with cases; future tense; present tense and present to express the future; pronouns; cases with verbs; the imperative</p>	<p>Multiculturalism in German-speaking society Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world <i>Integration, Die Wiedervereinigung und ihre Folgen</i> Grammar possessive and interrogative adjectives; subjunctive in indirect speech; word order; conditional sentences with the imperfect and pluperfect subjunctive; cases (revision)</p>
Spring Term 1	<p>Artistic culture in the German-speaking world Set film <i>Feste und Traditionen, Das Leben der Anderen</i> (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck) Grammar the passive with <i>werden</i>; the imperfect tense; separable, inseparable and reflexive verbs Overview of director's work and Life in the GDR/FRG; background and characters, key themes; artistic purpose, style and techniques; introduction to critical and analytical essay writing</p>	<p>Multiculturalism in German-speaking society Set film Set book <i>Rassismus, Das Leben der Anderen, die Verwandlung</i> Grammar: relative and interrogative pronouns; revising the present and future tenses; subjunctive in indirect speech Structured critical and analytical essay-writing practice</p>
Spring Term 2	<p>Artistic culture in the German-speaking world Set film <i>Kunst und Architektur, Das Leben der Anderen</i> Grammar word order in subordinate clauses; comparatives and superlatives; the pluperfect tense Structured critical and analytical essay-writing practice</p>	<p>Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world <i>Deutschland und die EU, die Politik und die Jugend</i> Grammar the perfect, imperfect and pluperfect tenses (revision); <i>da(r)</i> + preposition; the future perfect tense; the passive (revision); modal particles; word order including variations for emphasis</p>
Summer Term 1	<p>End-of-year exam Preparation, execution, feedback</p>	<p>Speaking exam Revision (past papers)</p>
Summer Term 2	<p>Exam feedback and review; consolidation of identified knowledge gaps; introduction to the IRP; teacher-directed and supported project work; sixth form progression programme</p>	