

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

- We all learn a structured, demanding, clear and engaging German curriculum in a caring, stimulating, secure and fun environment – regardless of ability and need.
- We all develop the skills and confidence to consider ourselves global citizens who belong in a multicultural, mutually respectful world.
- 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	Year 9 fast-track	
Autumn Term 1	Das sind wir! Introductions, age, pets, family and friends, appearance, personalities Grammar Capitals on nouns, <i>sein</i> and <i>haben</i> , nominative definite and indefinite articles, <i>er, sie</i> and <i>es</i> for 'it', adjectives	Ferien Places then and now, holidays, weather Grammar imperfect tense (<i>hatte, war</i> and <i>es gab</i>); perfect tense	Vorbilder Role models, experiences, parts of the body, overcoming misfortune Grammar the present tense; the perfect tense; the imperative	Recurring themes to highlight grammar topics: Ich und meine Welt — identity, family, friends Schule und Freizeit — school, hobbies, technology Ferien und Erlebnisse — holidays and past experiences Gesundheit, Umwelt und Alltag — lifestyle/environment	Foundational mechanics: Students develop an understanding of noun gender and definite/indefinite articles , while establishing accuracy in present tense conjugation and fundamental syntactic patterns . Grammatical sophistication: Learners refine their command of irregular verb patterns and the nuances of modal verbs , while developing precision in using the accusative case and mastering the syntax of separable verbs .
Autumn Term 2	Komm in die Schule! All about school Grammar Opinions, 'verb second', present tense regular verbs, word order after 'weil', accusative definite articles, <i>tragen</i> , present tense modals, <i>man</i>	Medien Film preferences, TV programmes, reading preferences, screen time Grammar questions in the perfect tense, dative prepositions, modal verbs	Musik Types of music, playing or singing in a band, listening to bands, music festivals Grammar nominative and accusative pronouns; <i>seit</i> ; comparatives; perfect tense separable verbs	Zukunft und Beruf — ambitions and future	Past event narration: Students learn to form and apply the perfect tense using <i>haben</i> and <i>sein</i> , while developing accuracy in constructing regular and irregular past participles . Expressive complexity: Students articulate opinions using subordinate clauses , while mastering the dative case and constructing nuanced comparisons .
Spring Term 1	Stadtleben Exploring a German town and talking about the weekend Grammar Compound nouns, revising present tense, <i>es gibt</i> + accusative, <i>in</i> + accusative, time expression and present tense	Gesundheit Typical breakfasts, traditional German food, recipes, healthy lifestyles Grammar <i>essen</i> and <i>nehmen</i> ; the imperative (<i>du</i> form); the modal	Meine Ambitionen Crazy ambitions, reasons for doing jobs, future plans, work in a ski resort Grammar the conditional tense; <i>um ... zu</i> ; word order, <i>in</i> and <i>auf</i>		Expressive complexity: Students articulate opinions using subordinate clauses , while mastering the dative case and constructing nuanced comparisons .

	to talk about future, <i>man kann</i> + infinitive, <i>in</i> + dative, verbs ending in <i>-ten</i> and <i>-den</i>	verb <i>müssen</i> ,			
Spring Term 2	<i>So feiern wir!</i> Food and drink, celebrations, customs and festivals Grammar <i>essen</i> and <i>trinken</i> , ordinal numbers, present tense revision, different words for 'you', the future with <i>werden</i> , <i>ich möchte</i> / <i>ich will</i> / <i>ich werde</i> + infinitive, <i>gern</i> , <i>lieber</i> and <i>am liebsten</i> , the comparative	<i>Klassenreisen</i> Rules, daily routines, directions, festivals Grammar the modal verbs <i>dürfen</i> and <i>müssen</i> ; reflexive and separable verbs; adjective endings	<i>Die Kindheit</i> Childhood and activities, primary and secondary school, Grimm's fairy tales Grammar <i>als</i> , <i>wenn</i> and <i>wann</i> ; (modal) verbs in the imperfect tense; the superlative		Aspirational objectives: Students articulate ambitions and intended outcomes by learning the future tense as well as using the present to describe the future . They gain confidence in practising precise temporal shifts .
Summer Term 1	<i>Oral exam, preparation and feedback</i>	<i>Oral exam, preparation and feedback</i>	<i>Oral exam, preparation and feedback</i>		Students refine and learn answers to a range of oral topic questions that summarise the knowledge they have acquired throughout the year and prepare them for the GCSE syllabus. They practise and then complete an oral assessment before the half-term break.
Summer Term 2	<i>Writing exam, preparation and feedback</i> Film project	<i>Writing exam, preparation and feedback</i> Film project	<i>Writing exam, preparation and feedback</i> Film project		

KS4 German Curriculum

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

Term 2		
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KS5 German Curriculum

	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term 1	Aspects of German-speaking society <i>Familie im Wandel, die digitale Welt</i> Grammar present tense (incl. modal verbs); perfect tense; word formation and order; prepositions with cases; future tense and the present to express the future	Multiculturalism in German-speaking society <i>Einwanderung, Integration</i> Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world <i>Deutschland und die EU, Die Politik und die Jugend</i> Grammar weak masculine nouns; complex adjectival phrases; adjective endings; possessive and interrogative adjectives; 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 Set book <i>Der Vorleser (Bernhard Schlink)</i> Background and characters, key themes; artistic purpose, style and narrative methods; reintroduction to critical and analytical essay writing; comparison and contrast with essays on film
Autumn Term 2	Aspects of German-speaking society <i>Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen</i> Artistic culture in the German-speaking world <i>Kunst und Architektur</i> Grammar pronouns; cases with verbs; the imperative; word order in subordinate clauses; comparatives and superlatives; the pluperfect tense Set film <i>Das Leben der Anderen (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)</i> 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 Paper 1 and 2 assessment, feedback, reflection	Paper 1 and 2 assessment, feedback, reflection Multiculturalism in German-speaking society <i>Integration, Rassismus,</i> Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world <i>Die Wiedervereinigung und ihre Folgen</i> Grammar subjunctive in indirect speech; word order; conditional sentences with the imperfect and pluperfect subjunctive; cases (revision) Set book <i>Der Vorleser (Bernhard Schlink)</i> Overview of essay structure; structured critical and analytical essay-writing practice
Spring Term 1	Artistic culture in the German-speaking world <i>Feste und Traditionen</i> Grammar the passive with <i>werden</i>; the imperfect tense; separable, inseparable and reflexive verbs Set film <i>Das Leben der Anderen (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)</i> Overview of essay structure; structured critical and analytical essay-writing practice	Independent research project, speaking exam preparation and practice
Spring	Artistic culture in the German-speaking world	Full mock, feedback, revision and preparation

Term 2	<i>Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute</i> Grammar adjective endings; infinitive constructions with and without zu;	
Summer Term 1	<i>Revision and preparation</i> <i>Full end-of-year exam including speaking</i> Preparation, feedback, reflection	<i>Speaking exam</i>
Summer Term 2	Exam feedback and review; consolidation of identified knowledge gaps; introduction to the IRP; teacher-directed and supported project work; sixth form progression programme	

