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| Q | Why study German GCSE? |
| A | <p>Studying German has many great benefits. The main reason to opt for the GCSE should be your love and passion for the language. The aim of the course is to develop key transferable communication skills which are highly-valued by employers. The GCSE course provides the opportunity to explore different cultures within the German speaking world. It will also open up opportunities only those who are multilingual get to enjoy, e.g. living in another country and working for multinational companies or international organisations. Studying German also has measurable economic advantages. A study conducted by The Economist found that speaking German could also increase your earning potential by 4%, more than in French or Spanish. On average German speakers in the UK earn over a third more than their non-German-speaking co-workers. Engineering; information technologies, sales, accounting and finance are the most financially rewarding sectors for German-speakers in the UK.</p> |
| Q | What are results like? |
| A | <p>German GCSE results are often the best or amongst the best results in the school. German GCSE students are able and talented linguist and have demonstrated their excellent linguistic abilities over the years with results as their testimony.</p> <p>German GCSE Exam Results 2023: 100% of students achieved grade 9-7. German GCSE Exam Results 2022: 100% of students achieved grade 9-8. German GCSE Exam Results 2021: 100% of students achieved grade 9-5. German GCSE Exam Results 2020: 100% of students achieved grade 9-5. German GCSE Exam Results 2019: 100% of students achieved grade 9-6.</p> |
| Q | What do students say about the course? |
| A | <p>“German is a wonderful GCSE as every lesson is fun and varied, not to mention the sense of achievement as you gradually improve. With countless benefits and opportunities, German is a fantastic choice.”</p> <p>“I would highly recommend taking GCSE German because not only is it different and engaging but also the ability to have a smaller class size gives you the support and attention which you need for a subject like German. Although it can be challenging, you will face this in most subjects so if you enjoy languages and find it fascinating definitely pick German!”</p> <p>“I would say that the best aspect of German is that the classes are much smaller than usual and therefore it is much easier to get help in anything you are struggling with and the lessons are so much fun and very enjoyable.”</p> <p>“I love that the class size is very small which makes it easier to ask questions or contribute in lessons, so you feel as if you are learning more. Also, Miss Raebel is a very committed and supportive teacher :)”</p> |
| Q | What has the German Department got to offer? |
| A | <p>Students enjoy the small class sizes in German. The average class size over the past years has been approximately 10 students. This allows for more contact between student and the teacher. This results in teaching that is more tailored to individuals, resulting in increased one-to-one support during lesson time when compared with other subjects. The atmosphere in the group is consequently welcoming, co-operative, and friendly. We are a close-knit community not just an options group. I am very giving of my time to anyone who needs a little help. Additional booster sessions are always available during lunch time and after school. There is expertise in the department that others lack that comes from having a native German speaker as your teacher.</p> |

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| Q | What do we study? |
| A | <p>The course covers content that would be useful to a 16 year-old when visiting, living, or working in a German-speaking country or organisation (e.g. Audi, Bayer, Siemens):</p> <p>The topics covered as part of the course can be summarised in three themes:</p> <p>Identity and Culture, i.e. the language that is useful on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>Local, national, international, and global areas of interest, i.e. the language that is useful when travelling or living abroad.</p> <p>Current and future study and employment, i.e. the language that is useful to studying internationally and employment.</p> <p>Students face an easier task because some of the material that they need to know has already been covered as part of the KS3 German curriculum. This will be revisited at GCSE.</p> <p>New material will include topics covering really interesting and contemporary issues relating to matters like the environment and social attitudes. One of the most exciting topics is customs and festivals in German speaking countries which allows students to become immersed in another way of life.</p> |
| Q | What is a typical German lesson like? |
| A | <p>A typical German lesson is fun and interactive. There are many opportunistic to practise all four skills during a lesson. This is one of the few subjects where chatting with your peers is encouraged and useful. There is a lots of opportunity for group and of pair work. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming.</p> |
| Q | How much homework will we get? |
| A | <p>Each week there is one easily manageable piece of homework and spellings test to prepare for.</p> |
| Q | Which exam board do you use? |
| A | <p>currently AQA (tbc due to updated exam specification) Exam Board: AQA - Specification(s): 8668</p> <p>For further information about the new specifications, visit: AQA: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668 Edexcel: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/german-2024.html</p> |
| Q | What are the exams like? |
| A | <p>You will be assessed on four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each Paper is 25% of the overall GCSE.</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening - Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. Paper 2: Speaking - Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. Paper 3: Reading - Understanding and responding to different types of written language. Paper 4: Writing - Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.</p> |
| Q | How does the Tier system work? |
| A | <p>All language exams are dived into Foundation and Higher Tier entries. In German, you can be entered in the Higher and Foundation Tier. The Foundation Tier is considered to be easier and the highest grade you can achieve is a grade 5. The majority of German students will enter for Higher which students have proven to excel and demonstrate their outstanding language skills (see results section). Decisions on tier entry will be made on a case by case scenario as a student's linguistic ability will be taken into consideration.</p> |