

How to support the MFL Curriculum as a parent

The MFL curriculum intent outlines how we develop your child's language skills across the three key stages moving from being able to utter a few words in a foreign language to being able to put across a point of view persuasively using specific cultural, historical and political evidence to inform these opinions.

Therefore as a languages department we felt, rather than give you an overview of each stage of language learning, it was more appropriate to list the types of activities you could encourage your child to do to foster a love of language learning and an interest in other cultures and societies.

1. By far the best way to encourage language learning is to take your child to the country of the language they are learning. We do absolutely understand this is not always possible but if you are holidaying in a country where your child is learning the language then you could do the following:
 - Encourage them to translate or work out road signs, shop signs, tourist information
 - Buy a magazine or tabloid newspaper to see what they can work out
 - Get them to interpret menus (they can look words up on their phones)
 - Get them to order from the menu for you if they are brave enough
 - Visit sites of cultural interest and encourage them to read about the sites in English- use this as a chance to talk about German history or French art or Spanish food
2. Watch films in the foreign language using English subtitles- you will be amazed what you can find online and on streaming services. A number of the students have told us about series or films they are watching at home. Be careful with the ratings for European films- our European friends sometimes allow racier language or activities than a parental guidance rating might allow in Britain.
3. Listen to music in the language of choice- on our virtual learning pages we have some recommendations but getting students to download the songs they like, look at the words written down and sing along or just say some of the raps is a great way to improve listening and speaking skills.
4. Look out for activities in London relating to the country of interest- the Institut français, the Goethe Institute and the Instituto Cervantes all offer cultural programmes, food tastings, and events which might be of interest
5. Take advantage of the big supermarkets' promotions of European food- talk about the food, taste it and discuss!
6. Practise language using the quizlet app (www.quizlet.com) or duolingo (www.duolingo.com)
7. And the single most important thing you can do to help your child succeed in languages is to value the learning of a different language yourself- talk about how great it is to be able to speak a different language and the many opportunities it will offer them when they leave school. The British government is concerned about the poor uptake of languages nationally which means our students will be ideally placed for all sorts of great opportunities for travel and advancement even if they stop learning a language after their GCSE.