

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR LANGUAGE STUDIES

Advice for parents



For students to progress well in their language studies, it's important that they have as much input as possible in French/ Spanish outside the classroom.

We understand that, for parents who don't speak the language, supporting your child with French/ Spanish learning may seem daunting. We have therefore compiled a list of tips and ideas that you could try together at home:

WHY STUDY LANGUAGES?

Connect with a wider range of people, both personally and professionally.

Advance your **career**. No matter the sector, languages are in the top eight skills required of all occupations, and demand for bilingual professionals is on the rise. Whatever your aspirations, having a language on your CV makes you much more attractive to employers.

Feed your **brain**. The cognitive benefits of language learning include: improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, greater creativity and flexibility, and better listening skills.

With more opportunities for studying and working abroad, you can **travel** the world and learn about other cultures- exploring different traditions, religions, art, music and history.

Boost your **confidence**. Language learning puts you out of your comfort zone and teaches you that making mistakes is okay!

- **Check that homework has been completed.** Your child will be set at least two spelling tests per half term, and occasionally a worksheet/ writing/ research task. They must complete the 'look, cover, write, check' grid for every spelling test.
- **Practise spellings together.** Once your son/ daughter has completed their spelling test grid, you could use it to test them on the words they have been learning.
- **Practise other useful vocabulary together.** At KS4, you can use the GCSE vocabulary book (£2) to test your child on key words they must know. It is best to do this little and often, and to revisit different lists of words they studied a while ago. They should also be using *Quizlet* to practice online each week. At KS3, students can use notes in their books to practise useful words, and make flashcards/ mind maps for you to test them.
- Ask your child to **use post-it notes to label items around the house** in French/ Spanish. At KS3 they may note single words e.g. 'toothbrush', whereas at KS4 they could use longer phrases e.g. 'I brush my teeth'. This will allow them to practise throughout the day, and the post-its can be updated as they master each set.
- Encourage your child to **change their mobile phone language** to French/ Spanish. They could also do this for other devices, e.g. x-box.
- **Try listening to French/ Spanish radio** at home or in the car (*TuneIn* is a great website with radio stations from around the world). Your child may not understand much, but it will help them get used to the sounds of the language, and they will gradually recognise words!
- **Listen to French/ Spanish music together** on *YouTube* or using *LyricsTraining*. This is a great website for practising listening skills.
- **Download Duolingo and start a family competition.** See who can earn the most points each week!
- **Try watching foreign films with English subtitles**, or putting the French/ Spanish subtitles on when you watch an English film.
- Encourage your child to **use French/ Spanish while you are out and about** e.g. saying phone numbers out loud, or translating shopping lists, signs and menus.
- **Check our website for links to some fantastic online resources** and useful websites (e.g. *News in Slow French/ Spanish*, online dictionaries, *LanguagesOnline*, *Duolingo Podcast*). You can also check our Curriculum Maps to see what your child is studying. (School website > OUR SCHOOL > Teaching and Learning > Subjects > Languages)

- **Contact us** with any questions:

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