

The Modern Languages Department at Cardinal Hume is a stimulating and challenging environment for both pupils and staff. The department currently comprises six members of staff: two full-time teachers and four teachers on reduced timetables with significant responsibilities across the whole-school. The department is well resourced and makes full use of the excellent ICT facilities in each classroom at Cardinal Hume, including a large projector screen and quadraphonic sound. Most lessons take place in the four designated Modern Languages classrooms in the tower area of the building.

French and Spanish have parity of status and alternate on a yearly basis as the main language for all Year 7 students. In Years 7 and 8 pupils have two hours of contact time per week. Year 9 upper band pupils study a second language alongside their main language and have the option of taking both subjects at GCSE. These students have three hours contact time per week and the lower band has one hour per week. Currently there are four GCSE classes in Year 10 and three in Year 11. Strong GCSE candidates have the opportunity to study either French or Spanish at A Level. At present there are eight Year 12 pupils studying French.

GCSE results have been steadily increasing over the years. Last year 87% of students taking French gained an A\*-C grade, of whom 16% gained an A or A\* grade. The department performs well at A Level too.

A key strength of the Modern Languages Department is sharing good practice; strategies and ideas are regularly discussed and exchanged; resources are also regularly posted on the departmental shared resource area.

The school has links with schools in Uganda and Spain. It is also participating in a Comenius project with schools from Italy, Croatia, Turkey, Romania, Poland and Spain. There is an annual trip to northern France.