



Welcome to languages at Key Stage 5

We are delighted to offer both French and German and are pleased that you are showing an interest in continuing your language learning journey beyond GCSE.

Languages at King Charles 1 have an excellent reputation.

Through your language lessons we aim to inspire and enthuse you in your love of language and culture.

We can't wait to meet you!

Subject Overview

This is a linear A Level exam with 3 exams at the end of Year 13.

1. Spoken: One photo card on the A Level themes and the Individual Research project: 21-23 minutes. 30%
2. Listening & Reading to include Translation: 2 hours 30. 50%
3. Writing Paper: One question on literary text & one on the film: 2 hours. 20%

Meet the MFL A Level Department

Mrs Sally Collins*

Mr Kevin Kilmartin

Mrs Nichola Perks**

Mrs Kim Pitt

Mrs Hélène Rogers

Mrs Katie Woodall

All teachers have lived and worked in the French / German speaking world. Between them, we have specialists in linguistics, grammar, culture, cinema and literature covering all aspects of the A Level courses. Students will always be taught by specialists.

We have a proven track record of success at A Level and many years of experience.

* Lead teacher for French. Please contact scollins@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

** Lead teacher for German. Please contact nperks@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk

What you will study

Core content:

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar

French	
Y12	Y13
social trends	social issues
The changing nature of family	positive features of a diverse society
The 'cyber-society'	life for the marginalised
The place of voluntary work	how criminals are treated
artistic culture	political life
a culture proud of its heritage	teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
contemporary francophone music	demonstrations and strikes-who holds the power?
cinema - the 7th Art	politics and immigration

German	
Y12	Y13
social issues and trends	multiculturalism
the changing state of the family	immigration
the digital world	integration
youth culture	racism
Artistic culture	political life
festivals and traditions	Germany and the European Union
art and architecture	politics and youth
cultural life in Berlin, past and present	German re-unification and its consequences

What you will study

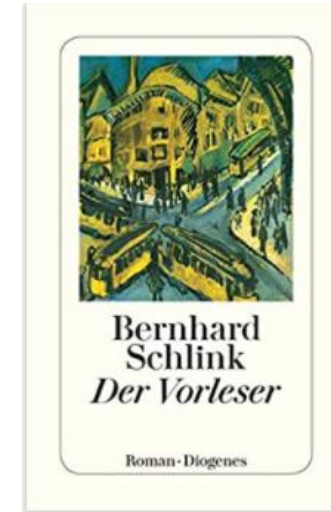
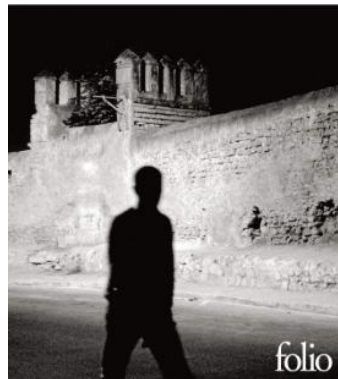
In addition we study a film and a book.

Film: **La Haine** Multi Award winning, thought provoking film depicting life in the suburbs of Paris for 3 friends all descended from first generation immigrants.

Book: **L'Étranger (The outsider)** a French bestseller (also available in English) which is set in Algeria & discusses societal norms. Why did Meursault kill?



Albert Camus
Prix Nobel de littérature
L'Étranger



Film: **Goodbye Lenin** Award winning film set in East Berlin at the time of reunification. We witness the end of East Germany and the beginnings of a new reunified country through the eyes of the Kerner family.

Book: **Der Vorleser** A parable dealing with Germany's reaction to the Second World War and the Holocaust. Der Vorleser has won several awards and been translated into 45 different languages.

What you will study

We also prepare our **Individual Research Presentation (IRP)**. This is your independent piece based on an aspect of the French/German Speaking World which interests you.

In your speaking exam you will present your topic and then discuss and debate with your teacher issues which arise from your findings. Topics which may interest you could include:

- **What French / German society does to protect its language and culture?**
- **The history and achievements of Les Restos du Coeur**
- **The history and role of rugby in France. How can it compete with other nations?**
- **May 1968: an analysis of its causes and consequences**
- **The consequences of Algerian independence**
- **French fashion**
- **The reunification of Germany**
- **Gastarbeiter and their contribution to Germany**
- **Hitler's rise to power**
- **The leadership of Angela Merkel**



Out of the classroom

We provide our students with an extensive list of proactive tasks to further boost their linguistic abilities, such as listening to podcasts & songs, watching films, a French & German reading library and more!

We encourage our Year 12 & 13 students to support younger students in their learning of a foreign language.

The options to join KS3 trips – Cologne / Paris / Husum

Students have attended webinars online from Bristol University, Warwick University & The British Film Institute supporting their film studies. As well as attending workshops at Warwick, Birmingham and Oxford University.

Reading or watching anything in the target language will boost your cultural knowledge, vocabulary and understanding. There's an abundance of films and series on Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon Prime.

What to expect in a lesson ...

Small bespoke classes:

Students from King Charles 1, Haybridge and Hagley RC.

9h/fortnight of languages: a block of 2/3 hours in a morning and a double lesson in an afternoon

All lessons start with a quiz (review of previous knowledge, vocabulary, grammar). They include a mix of skills; listening, reading, writing and speaking.

We conduct extensive **speaking activities**, such as role play, debates, Q&A so be ready to talk!

You will be exposed to a **variety of resources** to consolidate your learning, such as textbook, grammar workbook, theme revision workbook, a reading novel, study guides etc.

Culture: Everything is based in context and within the French/German speaking world

Homework is set at the end of each lesson block and you will have a week to complete it.

Typical hwk would include vocab learning, reading comprehension, written task & research

Career Pathways

Universities love students with language A Levels. Top universities consider language A Level as very desirable due to the skills needed. **They show an ability to work independently, to research, to analyse and an open-mindedness of character.**

They go with all subjects. Science degrees, humanities, English, Law, Media, international politics and business

It's not just about continuing with languages –Degrees are available combining a language and most other subjects.

Recent students have read languages at Cambridge, Oxford, Nottingham, Bristol and Lancaster, as well as at German universities.

They have gone on to careers in media, economics, HR, marketing.

Student Testimonials



‘Working in small classes is fantastic as there is far more 1:1 interaction with the teachers and we are able to get immediate feedback. There are more opportunities to practise our speaking skills, in particular, as we don’t have to wait for everybody to have a go.’

‘Having the opportunity to study a language at A Level is not only a great way of improving our language skills, but it also gives the opportunity to discuss many contemporary issues from a different view point, through the lens of countries which we don’t ordinarily hear a lot about’.

‘We have learnt so much more than just to speak French. I love the debates and discussion; They have given me so much more confidence.’

‘I was worried that I wouldn’t cope at A Level, but we started with revision. Because lessons are broken down into the skills and we are tested on vocabulary each week, it’s so easy to make progress and I can’t believe how much more I know after only 1 term of A Level.’

‘Our teachers mark everything – They make us work hard but we get constant feedback so I feel I am always improving.’

‘Our teachers are really knowledgeable and provide us with a wide range of resources – texts, magazine articles, videos, films etc – to support the development of both our linguistic skills and subject knowledge.’





All of the King Charles I Open Evening resources can be found by visiting the [school website](#)



We look forward to welcoming you to our classrooms in September 2026