Cornwallis Academy
Ambitions for All

SMILE
SUCCESSFUL | MOTIVATED | INSPIRED | LEARNING | EXCITED & ENGAGED

Spanish

Curriculum Intent

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. We aim to provide all our students with a high-quality languages education to foster their curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. Our teaching enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It also provides opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching provides the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.

At Key Stage 5, students build upon the linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding developed at GCSE through the study of authentic Hispanic society, culture, history and politics. Students develop advanced listening, reading, writing and speaking skills while engaging critically with contemporary social issues, literary works and films. The curriculum encourages independent learning, analytical thinking and confident communication in Spanish, preparing students for higher education, employment and life in an increasingly global society.

Assessment, Marking and Feedback

Students are assessed regularly throughout the course using a combination of formative and summative assessment. Assessment includes listening, reading, writing and speaking tasks, alongside regular vocabulary and grammar retrieval to monitor progress and inform teaching.

Students complete AQA-style assessments throughout the year, including Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), to prepare them for the demands of the final examinations. Feedback is provided through whole-class feedback, live verbal feedback and written feedback where appropriate, enabling students to reflect on their progress and identify areas for improvement. Opportunities for self-assessment and peer assessment are also incorporated to encourage independence and develop students' understanding of the assessment criteria.

Homework

Homework at Key Stage 5 is set via Microsoft Teams and is designed to consolidate learning from lessons while developing students' independence. Tasks include vocabulary learning, grammar exercises, listening and reading activities, translation tasks and exam-style questions.

Students are expected to review classwork and notes regularly, revisiting vocabulary and grammar to ensure long-term retention. Independent study is an essential part of the course and students are encouraged to undertake additional research on the topics studied, read Spanish news articles, listen to Spanish podcasts and watch authentic Spanish-language media to broaden their cultural knowledge and improve their language skills.

Links to National Curriculum / Syllabus Specifications

A-Level Spanish Specification
AS https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/as-level/spanish-7691/specification
A-level https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/a-level/spanish-7692/specification

Exam Support & Revision Resources

- Mind maps provided in lessons
- Revision notes
- AQA A-level Spanish textbook
- Microsoft Teams revision materials and activities
- Exam-style questions and practice activities completed in lessons
- AQA past papers and mark schemes
- Quizlet vocabulary sets
- Knowledge organisers

- Grammar revision booklets
- Speaking question booklets and role-play practice materials
- Translation practice
- Listening practice using authentic Spanish audio and news reports

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

- Academic intervention sessions focusing on A-level speaking skills and examination technique.
- After-school Speaking Club to develop fluency, confidence and spontaneity in spoken Spanish.
- University of Kent Festival of Languages and Cultures.
- Educational visit to the British Film Institute (BFI) to watch Volver as part of the A-level Spanish film study.

Interested to know more?

To read:

- BBC Mundo
- El País
- BBC Languages – Spanish news BBC - Learn Spanish with free online lessons
- Fluent with stories Spanish Short Stories for Beginners & Intermediates (A1–B2) | Fluent With Stories

To watch:

- RTVE Noticias

To listen:

- Coffee Break Spanish
- News in Slow Spanish
- Hoy en El País
- Linguriosa

To visit:

- Instituto Cervantes (London)
- La Taberna (Maidstone)