



# Spanish Learning Area

¡Hola a todos!

As a Spanish department we feel very lucky to have this immensely popular and widespread language as a core subject at MVPA, studied by every student from year 7 to year 11. These 5 years of language learning form an integral part of the students' oracy provision and serve to greatly develop their social interactions and the clarity of their everyday communication. From start to finish lessons are pacy and interactive and students leave the classroom feeling a buzz from the new grammar point, word or useful phrase they will have learnt that day.

We ensure that all of our students finish KS3 with a bank of transferable vocabulary and phrases and the skills and resources to succeed in tasks in the four key skill areas for language learning; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. We ensure that our students are equipped with the skills to decipher new vocabulary from context and to spot patterns in grammar which leaves them ready to tackle the challenges of KS4.

From traditional Hispanic food and festivals to the positives and negatives of social media, the KS4 curriculum spans a range of current and relevant topics with an emphasis on culture and authenticity. Lessons are taught as much as possible in the target language so students feel immersed in the language and have constant models to follow and replicate.

We aim, where possible, to run residential trips to Spain. So far, trips of around 50 students each have gone out to Barcelona and Madrid and the students who attended would definitely concur that they felt enriched by the experience both culturally and linguistically. Activities that form part of the residential programme include authentic role play practice in the famous 'La Boquería' market, guided tours of the 'La Liga' football stadiums and day excursions to the infamous Gaudí houses and the 'Museo del Prado'.

We work tirelessly to embed the importance of learning a modern foreign language to the students, both in terms of their future career prospects and the opportunities of travel and cultural enrichment that having a second language can bring. We feel that the Spanish department's ethos is summed up in the following Nelson Mandela quote:

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart'.

We look forward to welcoming your child on their exciting and enriching language learning journey.

Muchas gracias.