GERMAN

Why Study German?: The course aims to encourage candidates to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of German culture and society as well as developing the ability to understand, speak and write German. The two-year course comprises three components which cover the skills of speaking, reading, listening, translation and writing; these skills are built upon those acquired and practised at GCSE. Topics studied include: being a young person in German speaking society; understanding the German-speaking world; Diversity and difference; and the making of modern Germany.

The Modern Languages department has a dedicated IT room, with Sanako-Tandberg Language Laboratory technology, where students are able to practise listening and speaking individually and with others.

Content and Assessment of the Course:

A Level German

Component 1	**Speaking (oral)**	**21-23 minute oral**	**30%**

The examination consists of two parts.

1 A presentation, followed by a discussion, on a project independently researched. Candidates take this opportunity to study an area or theme not otherwise covered by the specification and in doing so have the chance to research a topic of genuine personal interest relating to the German-speaking countries.
2 Theme-based discussion. This involves a conversation on a topical theme chosen by the examiner from those studied for the examination. Candidates receive a conversation card to study and then discuss the topic with the examiner.

Component 2	**Listening, Reading, and Translation into German**	**2½ hour examination**	**50%**

This component comprises three sections

1 Listening to texts in German and answering questions of different types
2 Reading texts in German and answering questions of different types

Both these components test a candidate's comprehension.

3 Translation both into and out of German, each passage being a minimum of 100 words.

Component 3	**Critical and analytical response in writing**	**2 hour examination**	**20%**

This component comprises two essays of c300 words each on two literary texts or one literary text plus one film that the candidate has studied during the course. Currently we study '*Goodbye Lenin'* and '*Der Besuch der alten Dame'*.

The literary work(s) and film are chosen from a list specified by the examination board. All pupils normally study the same works in class, however independent reading out of the classroom is essential.

Additional Information: It is important to be able to express views orally and in writing on a wide range of topical themes such as the environment, the role communications media, and employment, education, and so on, and to learn to defend a point of view in German. Each student has one lesson a week in a group of two or three with the Foreign Language Assistant from Germany, Austria or Switzerland. We also offer regular Sixth Form trips to the British Film Institute for lectures and screenings.

Entrance Requirements: GCSE grade 7 in German.

In addition, candidates need to have a genuine interest in the culture, literature and society of the German-speaking countries and in related current affairs. Essential are the genuine desire to speak German and the drive to undertake further reading willingly.