

GCSE German

Curriculum Intent 2021-2022

Core aims of German at Key Stage 4

Languages are an integral part of the curriculum. Learning a language is 'a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures'. It helps to equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. It encourages pupils to appreciate and celebrate difference. The languages curriculum should also provide the foundation for learning further languages. It should enable pupils to study and work in other countries. In doing this, the languages curriculum has a potential positive impact on business and the economy. OFSTED curriculum review, June 2021.

You may have heard that German grammar is difficult and there are a crazy amount of ways to say 'the'. Yes, it's true, there are no less than eight different words for 'the' in German, but once you learn a grammar rule, it will never let you down. If you apply the rules to your work, you won't go far wrong. It's a reliable, comforting blanket of logic and language. The sense of achievement that comes with your first accurate use of the cases, or your piecing together of the word order of a complex sentence is monumental. Learning German presents many challenging opportunities as well as opportunities for personal development. It will keep your brain on its metaphorical toes.

Through your GCSE German journey, you will revisit topics studied at Key Stage 3 but you will go into each of them much more deeply. As the course goes on, you will develop a greater understanding of the German language as well as different aspects of German culture. The topics have been chosen based on the GCSE specification and we've strategically planned out when to teach them and how long to dedicate to each of them, allowing plenty of time for revision. Like the language itself, we apply logic to our planning.

„Warum soll ich Deutsch lernen?“ I hear you cry! Knowing that German is the language of business is motivational, but what does that actually mean? Germany is home to numerous international corporations and is on the front line of new technologies. It is home to a large number of economic global players such as Siemens, Volkswagen, Adidas and Lufthansa, to name but a few. Look closer to home and you'll find that one of the largest employers in the area, Bentley, is German owned. “But they all speak English!” Yes, the German school system may be set up in such a way that every German citizen knows at least some English, but don't forget that communicating with someone in their native tongue is a sign of good faith and respect that is appreciated everywhere. Knowing the language of your German business partners can greatly improve your chances for effective communication and successful professional relationships. Just in case that hasn't convinced you, here's a cool fact:

German websites make up a huge part of the Internet. In fact, when it comes to domain endings that are affiliated with a particular country, Germany's .de is the most popular domain there is. Surprising, ja?!

Learning German will most definitely prepare you for your future, but it's not all business though. Work yes, but plenty of play too. Germany is a vast and diverse country, with something for everyone. City breaks, family holidays, seaside, lakeside, skiing, the great outdoors, arts, history, fashion, food, music, diversity... and you can sample all of this in a weekend thanks to Germany's excellent transport links!

Here in the MFL department at Brine Leas, we are fiercely proud of our visits abroad and the German exchange is one of them. Taking part in the German exchange, you will become involved with our partner school and immersed in a German community, experiencing lessons in a German high school, and visiting Christmas markets. Using the German that you have learned at school, but in real life situations, you'll realise the benefits of lifelong learning. The language taught in school will really work and you'll most certainly feel inspired to learn more and more.

It would not be fair or true to say that learning German is easy; language learning takes time, effort and dedication. The acquisition of vocabulary and grammar knowledge is relentless, but we make no apology for this! The rewards for perseverance are enormous; you never know which doors might just open for you because of your language skills. Employers recognise that learning a language shows resilience and tenacity and will respect and value you for this. Your teachers will guide you safely through the course, preparing you for the exams and beyond, but this is your grade for a reason. Spending just five minutes a day reading through your class notes, revisiting grammar points or learning vocabulary is worth more than half an hour once a week. The dividend for trawling meticulously through your written pieces, to correct and improve them will come when you sit your writing exam and can tackle any essay question with ease and confidence. Making links to a whole host of related words from one word you've just discovered, will train your brain to find connections and break down words more easily, keeping your brain firing on all cylinders (you're welcome!).

Yes, we know how to get you through your GCSE German exams, but we like to think beyond the classroom and prepare you for your future. One day, you will leave Brine Leas and we like to think that when you do, you will go out into the world equipped with enough language skills for you to manage in most everyday situations. The curriculum in all Key Stages provides breadth and depth, equipping you with an excellent command of the language. Some of you will develop a love of German, and an insatiable thirst for more knowledge so strong that it takes you into A Level and maybe even University. It's obvious really, but being able to speak a foreign language means that you are able to communicate with literally millions more people than those who can't. We can't wait to see where your language skills take you.

Trips and visits

Not applicable

Assessment

Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in German culture and German speaking countries. Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

GCSE German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Please see website for the formal internal assessment record.

Homework

Homework consists of weekly vocabulary tests on key words and phrases as well as regular revision of class notes, improvements to written tasks and speaking questions and other exercises such as grammar tasks, as set by individual teachers.

Clubs and/or intervention

Intervention in place as needed

Parental/Carer support

As ever, parental support is invaluable. Any support parents can give to help their child to learn is always welcome. Parental vocabulary checking and discussion of in class learning helps to reinforce learning.

Helpful sources of information

aqa.org.uk

Memrise

Duolingo

bbc.co.uk/bitesize

zdf.de/kinder

kindernetz.de/infonetz

blinde-kuh.de

Connections to future pathways

Careers

Careers where a language degree would be useful include: Interpreter, Secondary school teacher, Translator, Import/export, Travel industry, Broadcast journalist, Detective, Diplomatic service officer, Education consultant, English as a foreign language teacher, Import/export, International aid/development worker, IT, Logistics and distribution manager, Marketing executive, Patent examiner, Public relations, Private tutor, Project manager, Sales executive, Solicitor, Tour manager, Writer

Significant local employers include: Bet 365, Muller yoghurt, Bentley, Network Sports

Degree courses where languages are required/useful to gain entry: Classical Studies – useful, Economics or Business related degrees – useful, English - sometimes essential, always useful, European Studies - essential, 2 languages even more useful, Film Studies – useful, German - essential, 2 languages even more useful, History – useful, History of Art – useful, Italian - essential, 2 languages even more useful, Law – useful, Leisure and Tourism – very useful , Philosophy – useful, Speech Therapy – useful, Teacher Training - essential in some cases, useful in all.

Transferable skills: communication skills, adaptability/resilience /resourcefulness, independent learner, cultural development, global awareness.

Year 10 Overview

Term	Knowledge	Assessment	Connections to learning
Autumn 1	Me, my family and friends & Technology in everyday life		
	Who doesn't want to talk about themselves?! Here, we'll get you doing it in German. We want to know who you are, what your friends and family are like and what your opinions on important things like marriage and children are. We'll then move on to our 21 st century topic where you can tell us about your life online and, dare I say it, the problems associated with it.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Family members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular and irregular verbs in the present tense • reflexive verbs • separable verbs ➤ Relationships with friends and family members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflexive verbs • possessive adjectives ➤ Advantages and disadvantages of marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • future tense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Looking for clues when listening ➤ Learning to distinguish word types ➤ Understanding questions ➤ Spotting patterns ➤ Spotting grammatical signposts ➤ Looking for near-cognates ➤ Thinking creatively in speaking ➤ Achieving a fluent translation <p>The topics of family and relationships and technology were touched upon in Key Stage 3, (Family and relationships</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>wollen</i> • comparative and superlative adjectives • plural nouns ➤ Social media • direct and indirect object pronouns • <i>weil</i> and <i>wenn</i> ➤ Internet safety • <i>wann, wenn</i> and <i>als</i> • imperative ➤ Mobile communication • imperfect tense • possessive adjectives • imperfect and perfect tense 		<p>in both year 7 and year 9, and technology only briefly in year 7) but now need to be developed. At Key Stage 4 students will have developed stronger opinions about family and relationships and their German needs to reflect this. By Key Stage 4, life experiences will pave the way to deepening knowledge and thoughts surrounding technology. The advantages and disadvantages of social media for example will be clearer to the students and in Key Stage 4, the focus will be on revision followed by development.</p>
Free time activities			
<p>What makes you tick? We know you in a classroom, in uniform, but what about when 3:15 comes? Are you an absolute film fanatic? Is music your life? Do you dream of being an Olympian? In this unit, we'll teach you how to tell us all about in German.</p>			
<p>Autumn 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Music and film fans • separable verbs in the perfect tense • word order ➤ Film fanatics • reflexive verbs in the perfect tense • Time-Manner-Place rule ➤ Eating out • present tense • modes of address • adverbial phrases • questions ➤ Sports • separable and reflexive verbs in the future tense • modal verbs • <i>wann, wenn</i> and <i>als</i> past, present and future time frames 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Listening for key information ➤ Working out the meaning of new words ➤ Asking for clarification ➤ Word patterns ➤ Listening for essential words ➤ Spotting feminine nouns <p>This will be the first time this topic has been covered since year 7, so will need to be developed further to include a range of tenses and structures. By this stage, students will have possibly uncovered more hobbies and will now have the ability to express this in German.</p>

Customs and Festivals

Have you ever spent New Year's Eve sat with your family pouring melted tin into a bowl of cold water? In this unit, you'll find out why you might if you spend 31st December in Germany!

**Spring
1**

- Customs and Traditions
 - adjectives used as nouns
 - names of countries and places
- German customs
 - verb as second idea
 - weak masculine nouns
- German festivals
 - perfect tense
 - descriptions of past activities
- Traditions in German-speaking countries
 - personal pronouns
 - Time-Manner-Place

- Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc.

- Paraphrasing
 - Spotting different words used to express the same idea
 - Using context when listening
- This topic was last encountered in year 8 and since then, some students may have taken part in the German Exchange. At Key Stage 4, students will look at different German traditions, as well as looking back over traditions covered in Key Stage 3, but much more deeply.

Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Are you fiercely proud of your Harry Potter bedroom? Do you love your garden because it's the size of a football pitch, with a goal at either end? Does the lack of cinema in Nantwich annoy you? This is the unit to tell us all about it!

**Spring
2**

- Where do you live?
 - prepositions
 - verb position
- Where will you live in the future
 - prepositions with the dative
 - future tense
- My area
 - *können*
 - adjectival endings
- My town
 - Questions
 - verb position

- Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc.

- Using grammatical markers
- Describing something when the word is unknown
- Using drawing to help with communication
- Breaking down long words to aid comprehension

This topic was first encountered in year 8, but at Key Stage 4, the expectation is that the language used will be at a much higher level. Tenses and more advanced phrasing will feature more prominently at Key Stage 4.

Social issues

Does the thought of a gap year excite you? How might you spend it? Taking care of orang-utans in Borneo, building a school in Tanzania or improving maternal health in Malawi? This might sound a little complicated to be able to say all this in German, but trust us, we'll get you there.

Summer
1

- Charity work overseas
 - *in* with the accusative and dative
 - using *dieser* and *jeder*
- Volunteering adventure
 - *wenn* clauses
 - using *dieser* and *jeder* with all cases
- Lifestyles in the past
 - using *als*
 - using *um...zu* and verbs that are followed by *zu*
- Health issues
 - saying 'must not' and 'don't have to'
 - imperfect tense

- Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc.

- Ignoring words that are not needed
- Using cognates and near-cognates
- Using layout to help understanding
- Reading authentic texts

This is a new topic to the students, and because of the nature of the topic, it features complex structures and delves deeper into opinions and self-reflection. This topic will feed into Key Stage 5.

Global issues

Here we move away from looking at ourselves and our own lives and we take a more outwardly look at the world. How can we save our planet? What are the causes of environmental problems and what can we do about them? We look at homelessness and take a moment to stand in somebody else's shoes. What must it feel like?

Summer
2

- Save the environment
 - imperative
 - pluperfect tense
- Global environmental problems
 - conditional tense with *wenn* clauses
- Homelessness
 - reflexive pronouns
 - weak masculine nouns
- Living on the streets
 - reflexive verbs with a direct object
- adjectival endings after *etwas*, *nichts*, *viel*, *wenig*, *alles*

- Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc.

- Spotting near-cognates when listening
- Using grammatical categories
- Recognising suffixes
- Looking for words inside other words

This topic has been left until Key Stage 4 to cover because of the complexity of the topic itself. It demands a lot of the students and it is not only the language that can be challenging, but also the content. It features complex structures and delves deeper into opinions and self-reflection. This topic will feed into Key Stage 5.

Year 11 Overview

Term	Knowledge	Assessment	Connections to learning
Autumn 1	Travel and tourism By the end of this unit, you'll be planning your visit to Germany! You'll find out about what to look for in an advert to get the right accommodation for your budget, and plan city tours. Germany and other German-speaking countries offer stunning holiday destinations for all types of people, and in this unit of work, you'll explore those more.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Booking accommodation • imperfect tense of irregular verbs • TMP with the perfect tense ➤ Looking at travel websites • coordinating / subordinating conjunctions • impersonal verbs ➤ Taking a city break • dative or accusative after prepositions • relative pronouns ➤ Holiday destinations • relative pronouns and <i>was</i> • complex question words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using paraphrasing ➤ Using adjectives to improve a piece of work ➤ Using social / cultural context to understand meaning ➤ Looking at alternatives to <i>weil</i> <p>This topic came up in year 8, but will now be covered with more time frames, allowing the students much more freedom and autonomy. Since they covered this topic, some may have been on the German Exchange and will therefore have a deeper understanding of travel in Germany.</p>

Autumn 2	<p style="text-align: center;">My studies and My life at school</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You already have your opinions on school, the subjects, the teachers, the uniform... so here you'll translate all of those ideas into German, being able to do so at a very high level. Don't worry, we won't tell your other teachers if you find their subject boring, as long as you can say <i>why</i>, that's all that matters!</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describing school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepositions <i>seit</i> and <i>vor</i> • adjectival endings after <i>etwas</i>, <i>nichts</i>, <i>viel</i>, <i>wenig</i> and <i>alles</i> ➤ Describing the different sorts of schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infinitive constructions • <i>seit</i> ➤ A typical school day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflexive verbs • imperative ➤ Different experiences of school life ➤ subjunctive forms ➤ comparative and superlative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Translating into German and encountering translation problems ➤ Modes of address ➤ Telling the time ➤ Using grammatical markers and categories <p>This topic will have been covered briefly in year 7 and again in much more detail in year 9. At Key Stage 4, the topic will delve deeper into education and at this point, students may have a clearer idea of where they are heading in terms of Post-16 and Higher education as well as stronger opinions on the school system and school life. The language they have acquired will enable to discuss their plans at a more advanced and elaborate level.</p>
Spring 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Education Post-16 and Jobs, careers and ambitions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This is it now, the final section. What are your plans for after results day and beyond? Will you be heading off to sixth form and then university? Will you be tackling an apprenticeship somewhere? Which career path do you see yourself taking? What do you look for in a job? This all sounds very serious, but don't worry, if you don't yet know what you'll be doing; we can help you say that in German too!</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Making career choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>welcher?</i> • adverbs such as <i>hoffentlich</i> and <i>vielleicht</i> ➤ University or career at 18? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verbs followed by <i>zu</i> • <i>wäre</i> and <i>hätte</i> ➤ Choosing a career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weekly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher e.g. written pieces / redrafts, grammar exercises, translations, speaking exam preparation etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ simplifying what you say ➤ listening for different ways of saying the same thing ➤ recognising the verb in a sentence ➤ using <i>von</i> plus the dative instead of the genitive.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subordinating conjunctions • prepositions with the genitive ➤ Ideal job • genitive case • subordinate clauses 		<p>This topic will have been covered briefly in year 7 and again in much more detail in year 9. At Key Stage 4, the topic will delve deeper into education and at this point, students may have a clearer idea of where they are heading in terms of Post-16 and Higher education. The language they have acquired will enable to discuss their plans at a more advanced and elaborate level.</p>
<p>Spring 2 & Summer 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Revision for GCSE exams</p> <p>This seems like quite a long time to spend on revision, but a lot of thought has gone into this! Digging up old topics, bringing them to the front of your mind again will help it to stick in your long-term memory. During these lessons, we'll be doing all sorts. We'll be going through past papers, looking at exam technique, writing essays, revising grammar...</p>		