

German – Year 9

Curriculum Intent

In Year 9, German consolidates and extends students’ linguistic knowledge, enabling them to communicate with greater accuracy, range and independence. Building on secure phonics and grammatical foundations from Years 7 and 8, students deepen their understanding of German sentence structure, verb patterns and word order. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to develop confident use of multiple time frames, extended sentence structures and more nuanced expression, preparing students effectively for GCSE German.

What Students Will Study Across the Year

Autumn Term – Phonics Precision, Grammar Control and Cultural Texts

Students refine their understanding of German phonics, focusing on subtle sound distinctions, stress patterns and spelling conventions. They revisit and extend present tense verb forms, including *ihr* verb endings and irregular forms of *sein* and *haben*, and consolidate accurate use of negation with *nicht* and *kein*. Students deepen their understanding of adjective agreement and article use and revisit the perfect tense, comparing it with the present. Language is applied through authentic texts, songs and stories, supporting comprehension and cultural engagement.

Autumn and Spring Terms – Sentence Complexity and Time Frames

Students develop control over more complex sentence structures, including two-verb constructions, separable verbs and infinitive clauses using *zu*. They extend use of the perfect tense, including verbs that take *sein*, separable prefixes and stem changes, and revisit imperfect forms of *haben* and *sein*. Students learn to use conjunctions such as *wenn*, *als*, *bevor* and *nachdem* to link ideas and show sequence in time, enabling more extended spoken and written responses.

Spring Term – Future Intentions, Modals and Description

Students learn to express future plans and intentions using *werden* and a range of future constructions, alongside verbs such as *vorhaben* and *planen*. They develop confidence using modal verbs in both present and imperfect forms to express ability, obligation and desire. Vocabulary and grammar are applied to describing people, places and experiences in greater detail, with increasing emphasis on accuracy and justification.

Spring and Summer Terms – Word Order, Pronouns and Abstract Expression

Students deepen their understanding of German word order, including verb placement after fronted adverbials and conjunctions. They work with direct and indirect object pronouns, including plural forms, and explore verbs that take specific prepositions. Students are introduced to more abstract language, using conjunctions such as *dass* and conversational particles to express opinions, reactions and feelings. Cultural learning includes historical and regional contexts from the German-speaking world, supported by film and literary texts.

Summer Term – Consolidation and Independent Language Use

The year concludes with consolidation of phonics, grammar and vocabulary across present, perfect and imperfect time frames. Students apply learning to extended listening, reading, speaking and writing tasks, focusing on fluency, accuracy and independence. They demonstrate increasing confidence in manipulating language to express ideas clearly and respond effectively to unfamiliar language.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment in Year 9 focuses on phonics accuracy, grammatical control across multiple time frames, vocabulary recall and the ability to adapt language independently. By the end of the year, students can understand and produce extended spoken and written German, apply complex grammatical structures accurately and communicate with confidence and precision, providing a strong foundation for GCSE German in Years 10 and 11.