Castle View School
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Castle View School
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Modern Foreign Languages Subject Intent Statement:

Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity, because as Nelson Mandela said, 'if you talk to a man in a language he understands it goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language that goes to his heart'. When learning a language, students learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people, giving them another window to look at the world. By making comparisons, they gain insight into their own culture and society. For example, in exploring the etymology (history) of a word, they can follow its evolution through different languages and appreciate that languages are interlinked. Therefore by learning a foreign language they develop skills and knowledge that will help them to learn other languages in future. Exploring etymology can provide us with illuminating new perspectives on everyday words or concepts and allow us to consider how we communicate and think. Thus, in learning languages we are learning about cognition (how the mind works) itself.

The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in this country and throughout the world. Learning languages gives students opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and to express themselves with increasing confidence, independence and creativity.

Understanding of grammatical points in another language gives students a grounding of their own grammar which supports the development of literacy skills in their own language. At a deeper level, language learning encourages students to develop courage, resilience and self-discipline. We aim to challenge and inspire our students by teaching engaging lessons, offering extra-curricular activities and by rewarding students who show dedication to our subject with the opportunity to become a language ambassador.

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