



# MFL Matters



## LOS DUCADOS

Dear students, parents and carers,  
Welcome to the first edition of our MFL Matters newsletter.

As a languages department, we recognise the importance of home-school co-operation and communication and the huge impact that this can have on student attitudes, engagement, success and progress. In the **next** issue, you will find a variety of information regarding all things LEARNING.

'Learning and memorisation' has a huge impact on student achievement, particularly with the increased academic rigour of the new GCSE.

If you have any questions relating to MFL or have any comments or contributions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mr D Williams**

Head of MFL  
Subject Specialist Lead - Spanish

## Meet the MFL team #españolerton

Hello from the all-new Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) team. We are both very experienced linguists, who are excited to be joining a great Academy. We are looking forward to sharing our love of languages with students, staff and parents alike. *Nos presentamos...*

**Señor Williams** - SSL Spanish, Teacher of Spanish

**Señora Hurst** - Teacher of Spanish

I have been teaching for 25 years now! I have been a Head of Department for 9 years and a Head of Year for 12 years at various schools. I love chocolate and I dislike people who lie. My favourite sport is hockey and I am a qualified hockey coach. (Sadly) I support Notts County FC and have done for forty + years! I like the variety of being a teacher, as no day is ever the same. I also enjoy the human interaction - it's fun! I don't dislike anything about my job. I genuinely love it ☺

I have taught languages for more than 20 years, at all levels. I have a diverse family and cultural background. I am a native Spanish speaker and I was born in Venezuela. I love cooking and I enjoy travelling, reading and watching movies. I am an examiner for different exam boards at GCSE and A-level. I am really excited to work at TDA and can't wait to share all my experience, knowledge and dedicated work with the Academy and students. ☺

Our Spanish curriculum is centred on our Academy's values of:

**Integrity, Ambition and Excellence.**

Our MFL ethos:

We strongly believe, here in the MFL department at The Dukeries Academy, in the mantra:

**Más que palabras** (More than words)

Learning a foreign language is about **more** than just the words. Of course, the vocabulary and verbs are key to communication and vital for exam success, but Spanish, as a subject, is about **so** much more. The countries, the people, the history, the culture, and traditions all make 'Languages' such a fascinating, vibrant, and engaging subject to learn. We want to share our love of languages with the students (and parents) at The Dukeries Academy, as well as our feeder Primary schools and the wider community.



## MFL Subject Ambassadors

We were delighted to announce that the application process is now open for the post of MFL Ambassadors or Language Leaders. We would love to see as many Spanish students as possible in Year 11 (and maybe even some Year 10) wanting to take on a brand-new student leadership position. We are looking for students who are passionate about languages and want to share their passion with others: in the Academy and in the community. The MFL team is looking forward to working with you this year!

## Online resources (free) – Spanish

- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9mtsbn](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9mtsbn)
- [www.digitaldialects.com](http://www.digitaldialects.com)
- [www.newsinslowspanish.com](http://www.newsinslowspanish.com)
- AQA exam board - past papers
- [www.voki.com](http://www.voki.com) - Text to speech resource. Create avatar and type / paste text, select language and voice. Play. Good for pronunciation and intonation.
- [www.memorizenow.com](http://www.memorizenow.com) - a free tool for memorising texts
- [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) - online dictionary



## Dates for your diary

**26<sup>th</sup> Sept – European Day of Languages**

**European Day of Languages** – Whole-school quiz, Year 7 speaking challenge, Year 11 Spanish food-tasting session - Café Olé

**12<sup>th</sup> October - Hispanic Day**

(Día de la Hispanidad)

or

**National Day** (Fiesta Nacional) in Spain

**23<sup>rd</sup> October - Mr Williams' 50<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

☺ ☺ ☺

**Y11 mock exam week** - Oct 31<sup>st</sup> to Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

**Y11 Speaking mock exams** - Dates and times to be confirmed

**Nunca es tarde para aprender**

*It's never too late to learn*