



MFL Matters



Dear students, parents and carers,
 Welcome to the **second** edition of our MFL Matters newsletter. In this issue, you will find a variety of information regarding all things **LEARNING**. Our KS3 classes will be doing Reading and Listening assessments over the next two weeks. 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.
 'Learning and memorisation' has a huge impact on achievement, particularly with the academic rigour of the 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, daniel.williams@atrust.org.uk

LOS DUCADOS

Día de los Muertos – 2 de noviembre

We celebrated **DAY OF THE DEAD** with a series of fun and informative lessons, by making 2 'ofrendas' (altars/shrines to family and friends) and educating the students about this important festival. Several staff also joined in our celebrations on the day.



Staff (left to right): Mr Williams, Mr Richards, Ms Summerfield, Mr Wright, Ms Hughes and Mrs Hurst

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 MFL 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 wider community.



Online resources (free) – Spanish

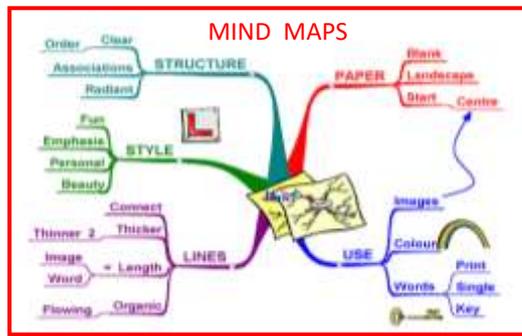
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize - GCSE Spanish
- <https://oye.languageskills.co.uk/> - 20042 - Dukeries22
- www.digitaldialects.com
- www.newsinslowspanish.com
- AQA exam board - past papers
- www.voki.com - Text to speech resource. Create avatar and type / paste text, select language and voice. Play. Good for pronunciation and intonation.
- www.wordreference.com - online dictionary

Dates for your diary

Dec 24 Nochebuena - Christmas Eve
Dec 25 Navidad - Christmas day
Jan 6 Día de los Reyes Magos - or Día de los Santos Reyes. In many Catholic countries, this is the time for Christmas fun. Traditionally the children receive gifts on this day rather than on Christmas day. Since the **Three Kings** brought gifts, people exchange presents, and children put out their **shoes** for the magi (kings) to leave the presents inside.

Jan/Feb Y11 Speaking mock exams - Dates and times to be confirmed

HIGHLIGHT tricky words + spellings: siete / veinte



MISSING LETTERS Make gap-fill exercises and games to test yourself / friends / parents

BE THE EXPERT Teach the vocabulary to someone else at home (or even in front of the mirror!)

POST-IT

Put post-it notes up in your room (or even on the back of the toilet door!) and match them back up again. Make vocab porters for your bedroom.

FLASH CARDS Create match-up cards to play vocab games (snap/pairs/dominoes/noughts & crosses)

Look
Say
Cover
Write
Check

10 TEST Family / friends test you on the translation of 10 words from English into Spanish and vice-versa

SOUND + VISION

Record yourself saying the words, play back and repeat; check with images!



TRAFFIC LIGHTS

- I know these really well - confident
- Easy to learn / guess (e.g. cognates)
- Hard to learn / definitely don't know



don't worry
BE 'APPY



DUOLINGO - An absolute classic! Duolingo is probably the best free language-learning app you can find. It's unlikely to take you from a beginner to being fluent, or even conversationally proficient, but it gives you exercises that help you learn a lot about a new language and practice it daily.

QUIZLET - 'Old school' and a bit limited in scope, Quizlet is an excellent study aid (app-based flashcards) for learning anything that relies on memorisation, such as learning Spanish vocabulary in various topic areas.



Beelinguapp - Beelinguapp is an excellent language-learning app, with a generous free version, that focuses on reading and reading comprehension. You use the filters to find materials that match your interests and skill level.

busuu - busuu is an attractive app and is extremely well organised, which allows for good scaffolding. The free account has a lot of limitations, but it's decent enough if you're using busuu only to practice vocabulary with flashcards for one language.



Memrise - Create an account today to use across multiple devices and learn wherever you are - even without data or WiFi (app only). Practice your speaking with pronunciation exercises (app only). Watch video clips of local speakers using real-life language.

Wlingua - This app could be perfect for you, whatever your level of Spanish - beginner, basic, intermediate, or advanced. 500+ lessons with hundreds of vocabulary and grammar exercises. You can also practice your reading and listening comprehension skills.



50

50languages - This free app has 30 lessons. With no prior knowledge, you will learn to fluently speak short sentences in real-world situations in no time. The 50 languages method successfully combines audio and text for effective language learning.

Language Transfer - Made up of 90 audio lessons that help learners build a foundation in the language by teaching a method for thinking your way through it. The course draws heavily on the similarities between English and Spanish. This isn't a fancy app with animations or pictures. As far as quality of instruction and learning potential, it's hard to beat this free app.

