



## Meet the Languages team



**Jose Ros**—Subject leader for MFL, Spanish Teacher, native speaker

**Helena Ground**—International Project Coordinator, Spanish Teacher and French and German specialist

**Irene Hernandez**—Spanish teacher, native speaker

**Carmen Santos**—Spanish teacher, native speaker

**Federico Voltán**—Spanish and Maths teacher, native speaker

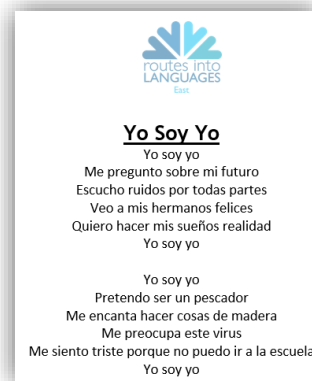
**Jane Driver**—Deputy Principal, Spanish Teacher and French and German specialist

**Our vision is clear:** Promote language learning and provide students with the skills to become independent language learners. Our department is well known for the extra clubs and competitions we have on offer. From the Language Eurovision contest at the beginning of Y7, to the Foreign Language Translation Bee in years 8 and 9, and our Erasmus + Projects for KS4, our wide range of extra activities motivate students' learning. We also have lots of fun with them!

## Recent achievements



We're proud to say that two of our students, Helio and Gabriela, took home second and third place in this year's National Translation Bee—a competition which challenges students' language skills by asking them to translate as many phrases as they can into either French, Spanish or German.



Congratulations to Oscar and Reagan in Year 9 for their winning Mother Tongue, Other Tongue poem entries, which were announced at virtual Cambridge Festival



## Important information for Year 11 and Year 10

This year is an important one for year 11 as they will be sitting their GCSE exams.

Here in the Languages Department, we want to help them prepare as much as possible.

Firstly, here are some important dates for the next term:

- **10th November**—Speaking Practice Exam (Miss Hernandez' group)
- **12th November**—Speaking Practice Exam (Miss Santos' group)
- **15th November—26th November** year 11 Practice Exams (listening, reading and writing)

There is no need to be nervous! The Practice Exams help teachers to determine what students have already mastered and what areas require more practice, to ensure that students are ready for their GCSE exams.

## Useful resources and tips for revision

It's important to bear in mind that revising at home is as important as what is learnt in lessons!

For that reason, it is advisable to set aside some time on a daily basis to revise vocabulary and grammar.

The more you revise, the easier it will get!

Classwork and resources handed out in lessons are a great starting point for revision.

However, there are plenty more resources that can be used, like the ones listed below:

- **Quizlet** (a must for vocabulary learning)- teachers set vocabulary learning so students can practise as much as they like. All the students have created their own username and password.
- **Active Learn** (platform used with our students, which great for Listening and Reading practice– All students have their usernames and passwords and are able to use it by themselves.
- [QKA Languages](#) (visit our YouTube Channel and check our speaking exam examples and grammar videos)
- <https://www.spanishdict.com/> has many useful sections such as a dictionary, grammar explanations, translations and much more!
- <https://www.wordreference.com/> - online dictionary



## Encourage them to use their Booklet

Using the KS4 Spanish Booklet regularly is the key to performing well, especially in writing and speaking skills. (click on the booklet for an online copy)



## 5 Tips on how to support with languages at home

Language learning should be viewed a little like learning an instrument. Learners need time, space and encouragement to practise regularly. Here are some final tips and suggestions for parents and carers to support their child with this learning journey:

### 1. Test them on their vocab and verb endings

You can test them regularly and in the process, learn new words yourself!

### 2. Get them to teach it to you

Once they believe they have grasped the formation of a new tense, get them to teach it to you and explain how it compares in form and use to English. This will help you share the language learning journey as you are inspired to learn with them.

### 3. Encourage them to speak the language as much as possible

When the question 'how was your day today?' is greeted with a teenage grunt, take another approach such as: 'Tell me 3 things you did at school today in Spanish.'

### 4. Provide opportunities for them to use the language for real purposes to build confidence

This might be a family meal at an authentic restaurant or a meal at home following a Spanish recipe. It could also be watching a movie or series in Spanish language with subtitles and encouraging them to listen to music in the foreign language.

### 5. Purchasing the foreign language version of a story book your child used to enjoy as a toddler.

Such books are excellent. Your child will already know the story and will be able to make useful deductions on vocabulary and, invariably, such books are excellent to see the past tenses in context.