

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

WAYS FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT

LEARNING OF A NEW LANGUAGE

Helping your child to pronounce other languages

The phonetic alphabets for French, German and Spanish are included in this document. You can use these if, for example, you are testing your child on vocabulary.

Topics

The type of language which pupils learn at Key Stage 3 falls under the following general headings:

Myself and my family (names, ages, jobs, descriptions)

Numbers (dates, days of week, birthday)

Hobbies (likes and dislikes, sports)

School life (school subjects, timetable, classroom objects, transport)

Shopping (names of shops, things to buy, colours, size, asking for something)

Food and Drinks (typical food and drink words, what you have for breakfast, ordering in a café/restaurant)

Daily routine (telling the time, verbs such as get up, eat, drink, watch TV, go to sleep....., weekend activities)

Holiday and travel (past and future tense, summer holidays, transport, sightseeing places)

House and Home (describing where you live, the rooms in your house, countries, nationalities, languages, directions, location and describing a town)

Health (parts of body, illness, healthy eating, exercise habits)

Why learn other languages?

- 1) When learning a language, you develop valuable skills, such as increased memory power and the ability to learn and apply rules. This is why people say that the more languages you learn the easier it gets! You will also be pleased to find that the skills you pick up in languages help with other subjects, such as communication skills, creativity and the ability to develop independent learning skills.
- 2) Learning about another culture, even if you never visit that country, will broaden your mind and allow you to see your own country as part of the wider world.
- 3) A recent government report has shown that people who have language skills have many more opportunities in the job market.
- 4) The ability to communicate in another language, even on a basic level, is a great way of making friends in other countries and cultures.
- 5) Learning language gives you access to other cultures through e-mail links, pen-friend Schemes, visitors from other countries, exchanges and trips abroad.

How can parents help with homework?

- 1) For vocabulary learning, you can be really helpful by testing your child from time to time. You can do this by taking their exercise books and asking for the words, one at a time.
- 2) Encourage your child to teach you some of the language they are currently learning. Examples of language they could teach you fairly easily and early on in their language learning are:
 - Counting (1 – 10, 1 – 20, 1 – 100, backwards from 100, in 5s and 10s)
 - How to introduce yourself (name, age, job, favourite food), you could keep adding to this as they learn more
 - Words for the different members of the family (mum, dad, sister etc)

- Telling you their timetable in the new language
- The days of the week and months of the year.

3)Of course your child will only be able to teach you something as they learn it themselves so you could get them to tell you what they have been learning recently and to show you their book when they bring it home for homework. This is a good review for them and keeps you up to date too.

4) If your child is stuck with a piece of languages' homework (and if you have time!) ask them to explain what they are supposed to do and see if you can move them on.

5) In all languages, help your child to practise saying the alphabet so that they can pronounce the language more accurately.

Further Reading

If you can't attend a new language class yourself but would like to have a go at learning a language, there are a wealth of teach yourself style books/tapes/CDs on the market (your local library should stock some or be able to get them in for you).

There are also some online language courses and activities which you might find useful.

Useful Internet Sites

Here are some suggestions.

French

www.linguascope.com (students will have the username and password)

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.mflgames.co.uk

www.travlang.com

www.languagesonline.org.uk click on 'New GCSE 2011'

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize click on French

www.bonjour.org.uk

www.momes.net (younger children, stories, songs, poems, film reviews)

www.infojunior.net (non-fiction reading material)

www.liberation.fr France Daily

www.lemonde.fr France Daily

www.parismatch.com celeb magazine

www.francealacarte.org.uk French embassy in London

<http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum/modlang/> Lots of useful teaching materials as well as advice and evaluations as to how to improve

<http://www.aiglon.ch/langlink/> a great website to help practice vocabulary, grammar rules and reading

and listening skills. Particularly useful at GCSE.

www.zut.org.uk Lots of Games and Interactive Quizzes to build your vocabulary skills: this website is free after 4pm (you cannot use it without a login code before 4pm).

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryfrench/pf2/games_all.shtml Interactive games from the BBC site, including topics such as numbers, colours, family, pets, the time, dates, weather and holidays

<http://www.actustar.com/> find out the latest news all about French celebrities

<http://www.planete-friends.com/spip/sommaire.php3> Watch “**Friends**” in French and read the synopsis of the series in French!

<http://www.e-hon.jp/demo2/indexfr.htm> (read Japanese children's story in French)

Irish

Information about the language

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_language

<http://www.irishlanguage.net>

<http://www.gaelic.com>

Online Irish lessons

<http://www.irishgaelictranslator.com/lessons/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/irish/blas/index.shtml>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/colinandcumberland/>

<http://www.gaeltalk.net>

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~eofeasa/>

<http://www.irishpage.com/irishpeople/>

<http://www.daltai.com/>

<http://www.eirefirst.com/lessonintro.html>

http://www.erinsweb.com/gae_index.html

<http://www.rte.ie/tv/turasteanga/>

<http://celticwonder.avhp.com/gaelic/>

<http://www.bitesizeirishgaelic.com>.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/irish/english/> A great site on the BBC full of Irish activities for all levels of learners. There are plenty of videos etc for you look through, all with subtitles. You can change the language to Irish at the top right hand corner.

<http://abairleat.lurgan.biz/moodle/eir/3/abairLeat.php> A great site from comedian Des Bishop who came from America to learn Irish within a year. In this site there are numerous lessons in speaking and spelling for those who have a little Irish already.

<http://yacapaca.com/teacher/assignment/new/step2/subject/114/1/> Yacpaca is a wonderful site for games and quizzes. On this page you will find many activities made by teachers from schools all over the country to cover all topics that students will study in Irish from Year 8 – 14.

German

www.linguascope.com (students will have the username and password)

www.yjc.org.uk

www.kidsweb.de (includes cookery, quizzes and art and craft)

www.goethe-institute.com

www.digitaldialects.com

www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/

www.dw-world.de

www.heute.de

www.tagesschau.de

<http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> A very helpful website which can help with vocabulary building, grammar practice and comprehension skills: click on **Deutsch** on the left hand toolbar or on **Games**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/> A useful revision site for practising GCSE style reading and listening skills. You can also practise your vocabulary skills by playing online Bingo and Destination Death!

<http://www.filmstar.de/> Showbiz gossip in German

<http://www.juma.de> A Website designed for teenage learners of German
<http://www.wetteronline.de/> German weather reports
<http://www.quelle.de/> German shopping website
[gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html](http://www.gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html) Lots of Games and Interactive Quizzes to build your vocabulary skills:
this website is free after 4pm (you cannot use it without a login code before 4pm).
<http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum/modlang/> Lots of useful teaching materials as well as advice and evaluations as to how to improve:
<http://www.e-hon.jp/demo2/indexde.htm> (read Japanese children's story in German)

Spanish

www.linguascope.com (students will have the username and password)
www.aiglonlanguages.ch click on Spanish - Revision - GCSE - Vocab Quizes
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/
www.pequenet.com (children's newspaper)
www.elpais.com Spanish Newspaper
www.muyinteresante.es Spanish Science/tech magazine
www.abc.es Newspaper
www.asisehace.net click on Nivel Avanzado
www.hola.com fashion/celeb magazine
<http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> A very helpful website which can help with vocabulary building, grammar practice and comprehension skills: click on **Español** on the left hand toolbar or on **Games**: click on Espanol 'New GCSE 2011'
[oye.languageskills.co.uk/index.html](http://www.gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html)
<http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum/modlang/> Lots of useful teaching materials as well as advice and evaluations as to how to improve:
<http://www.aiglon.ch/langlink/> a great website to help practice vocabulary, grammar rules and reading and listening skills. Particularly useful at GCSE.
<http://www.sispain.org/> Links to information on everyday life, history, geography, language and culture in Spain

General

www.kuhelp.webs.com (Japanese, French, German, Spanish)
www.linguatots.com (aimed at parents with small children but gives a general guide on how to help your child even if you have no knowledge of a foreign language)
www.quia.com/dir/lang (Many and varied language activities)
<http://www.livemocha.com/> (free language learning site)
<http://www.byki.com/> (free language learning site)

Phonetic Alphabets			
French L'alphabet	Irish An Aibitír	Spanish El alfabeto	German Das Alphabet
A aah	A ah	A ah	A ah
B bay	B bay	B beh	B bay
C say	C k	C theh	C tsay
D day	D day	D deh	D day
E euh	E day	E eh	E ay
F eff	F f	F efeh	F ef
G jey	G gay	G heh	G gay
H ash	H heh	H aheh	H hah
I ee	I eh	I ee	I ee
J jee	L ill	J hota	J yot
K kaa	M im	K kah	K kah
L ell	N in	L eleh	L ell
M emm	O awh	Ll elyeh	M em
N enn	P pay	M emeh	N en
O ooh	R erre	N eneh	O oh
P pay	S iss	Ñ enyeh	P pay
Q que	T tay	O oh	Q koo
R air	U uh	P peh	R air
S ess	Á aahh	Q cuh	S ess
T tay	É day say	R ere	ß ess-tset
U ew	Í ee see	Rr erre	T tay
V vay	Ó O show	S eseh	U ooh
W double vay	Ú oohh too	T the	V fow
X eeks		U uuh	W vay
Y egrec		V uuveh	X eeks
Z zed		W uuveh dobleh	Y oopsi-lon
Special sounds		X ekis	Z tset
ai _ ay maison		Y ee griegah	
au(x), eau(x) _ o animaux			
ou _ oo douze			
oi _ wa trois			
qu _ k quatorze			
ch _ sh chapeau			
eu(x) _ u (fur) deux, neuf			
ui _ wee, ooe huit			
il(le) _ eyu famille, juillet			
gn _ ny (new) champignon, araignée			
in, im, ein, en, hein, ent, ain, aim _ an			
quinze, trente			