

Modern Hebrew

Aims

- Our aim is that through the study of Modern Hebrew all pupils will:
 - a) develop the ability to communicate in the language;
 - b) deepen the appreciation of their Jewish roots;
 - c) acquire a better understanding of the history, geography and culture of Israel.

Organisation

The department consists of the Head of department, one full-time teacher and one part-time teacher.

The department takes into consideration the fact that there is a wide diversity of knowledge of Modern Hebrew amongst pupils when they join the school. Some pupils come from Israel, others have an Israeli background, some have previously studied the language at primary school and the remainder have had no previous experience of the subject. Pupils are placed into sets in order to cater for their diverse needs. Within each set, the teacher arranges groups so that the most able pupils are stretched and support is given to the least able.

A class in Modern Hebrew literature is arranged for bilingual pupils who would otherwise be unable to study the classic texts which form part of the curriculum of their Israeli contemporaries.

Teachers draw upon the following departmental resources:

- a) Units prepared by the department
- b) Stories – written and aural
- c) Israeli films and videos
- d) Textbooks
- e) IT training facilities
- f) Audio-visual aids
- g) Dictionaries
- h) Hebrew books, newspapers and videos held in the School Library

Classroom assistants are used to support:

- a) Group activities
- b) Pupils with special needs

Introduction

- Modern Hebrew is the language used in the State of Israel.
- The language was renewed as an everyday language after two thousand years and has its roots in the Hebrew of the Bible.
- In the last 60 years the language has developed as an expression of its speakers' experiences of life in a modern democratic, technological state.
- Modern Hebrew forms one of the core subjects of Jewish schools worldwide and is now used as a common means of communication amongst the Jewish people.

The department & the Year 9 Israel Trip

The department aims at developing the Modern Hebrew skills of all pupils to a level that will enable them to benefit linguistically from the Israel Trip. As part of their preparation for the trip, pupils are directed to the Hebrew books, videos and audio-visual aids held in the school library.

Public examinations

GCSE AQA SYLLABUS

Year 10 and 11 pupils take the GCSE course in Ivrit (reading, writing, listening and speaking). Israeli pupils sit the GCSE examination at the end of Year 9, while other able pupils sit the GCSE examination at the end of Year 10.

AS/A LEVEL AQA SYLLABUS

In the AS/A Level course pupils are introduced to Israeli writers from the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as the history, culture and ethnic communities of modern Israel. They have the opportunity to study works by such authors as Shai Agnon, Bialik, Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua. This course prepares students for higher education at seminaries, yeshivot and universities in Israel.

Benefits

The study of Modern Hebrew:

- Enables students to secure a better understanding of biblical, historical, modern and contemporary Hebrew texts.
- Enables students to acquire knowledge of the history of modern Israel and of current affairs in the Jewish state.
- Has a large part to play in ensuring that Immanuel College students understand the place of the Jewish people in the modern world. The Department is central to the school's vision of *Torah Im Derech Eretz*.

