

‘The Aspiring German Linguist.’ **KS4/5**



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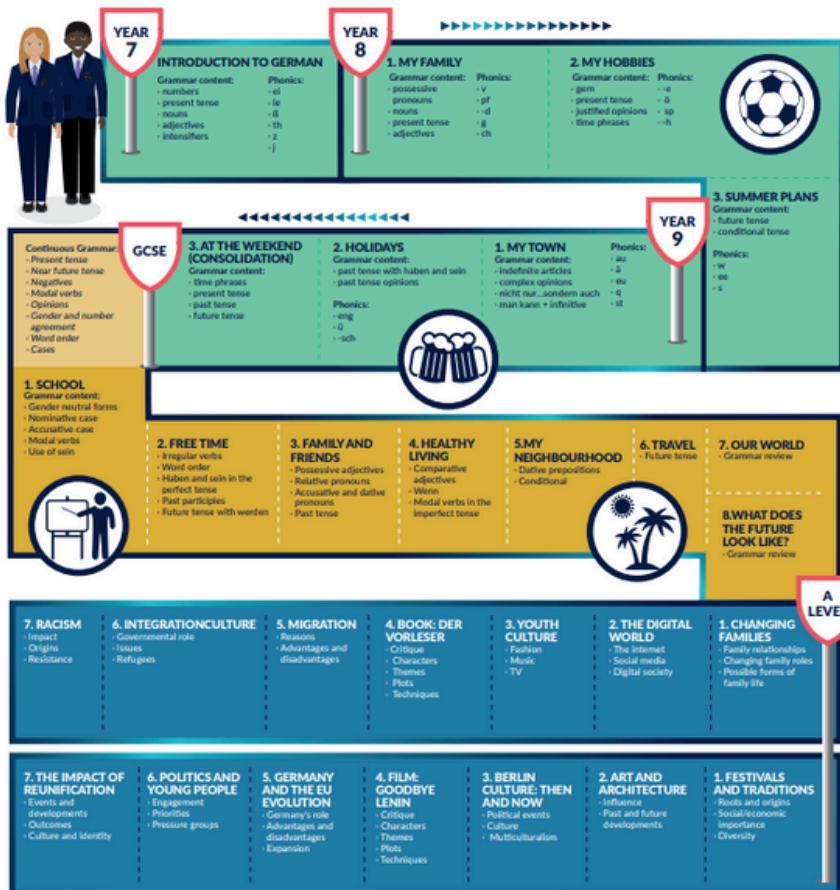


Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring German Linguist'



GERMAN



'The Aspiring German Linguist'



Willkommen!

Studying German opens up a world of possibilities—both literally and figuratively. As a linguist, you won't just be learning how to order coffee in Vienna or navigate a train station in Munich (although that's part of it!). You'll gain deep insights into how language works, how people think, and how societies function. German is spoken by over 100 million people and is a key language in science, philosophy, business, and the arts.

Our German pathway at KS4 and KS5 is designed to help you grow not only in fluency and accuracy, but also in cultural understanding and confidence. Through your studies, you'll explore everything from German reunification and multiculturalism to youth culture, digital media, and regional identity.

Beyond the classroom, we encourage students to read widely, engage with authentic materials, and take part in enrichment opportunities—from film clubs to essay competitions and work experience. Whether you're aiming to study languages at university, pursue a career in translation or diplomacy, or simply enjoy German as part of a broader skillset, this pathway will support and challenge you.

Viel Erfolg!

Miss Taylor
Head of German

Reading list



Suggested texts to deepen your cultural and historical understanding of German.

Franz Kafka – Die Verwandlung

A short, readable, endlessly interpretable text, perfect for interview discussion.

Bernhard Schlink – Der Vorleser

This text bridges literature and history, raising ethical questions.

Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Der Besuch der alten Dame

Great for talking about drama and post-war social critique.

Judith Hermann – Sommerhaus, späte

Modern short stories.

Heinrich Böll – Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum

Media, politics and terrorism in the 1970s.

Ingeborg Bachmann – Das dreißigste Jahr (stories)

Existentialism, gender, language criticism.

Competitions



Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators | University of Oxford

Annual translation competition of fiction and non-fiction texts. Speak with your German teacher to take part.



Stephen Spender Poetry Prize

Annual poetry translation competition. The rules are simple: translate into English any poem from any language, and produce an accompanying creative response for your chance to join the Stephen Spender Prize hall of eternal fame! Speak with your German teacher to take part.

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



Easy German Podcast

Slow, natural conversations on everyday topics with transcript and vocabulary support.



Langsam Gesprochene Nachrichten (DW)

German news read slowly – perfect for building comprehension and up-to-date vocab.



Deutsch – warum nicht? (DW)

Audio drama podcast to build vocabulary and grammar, especially useful for KS4.



Servus, Grüezi und Hallo – ZEIT

High-level political and cultural discussions between Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others)

Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck.

Released 2007. Set in 1980s East Berlin, a Stasi Officer (East German Police) becomes embroiled in the lives of others he has under surveillance.



Dark - Netflix (Age rating 15)

German Science fiction mystery thriller series



Deutschland 83 - Channel 4 (Age rating 15)

2015 German spy thriller series



Das Wunder von Bern (The Miracle of Bern)

Directed by Sönke Wortmann. Released 2003.

Set in post-war Germany, following the story of a family and the German nation on its journey to the 1954 World Cup.



Das Boot (The Boat)

Directed by Wolfgang Peterson. Released 1981.

A German submarine crew fights the Allies in 1941.



Lola Rennt (Run Lola Run)

Directed by Tom Tykwer. Released 1998.

Energetic and fast paced – a young woman needs to get 100,000 DMs or her boyfriend will die. Fantastic performance by Franka Potente (she was in The Bourne Identity).



Goodbye Lenin!

Directed by Wolfgang Becker. Released 2003.

A heart-warming comedy set in East Germany about a young man (played by Daniel Brühl) whose socialist mother awakes from a coma, unaware of the recent German reunification.

Listen and Watch



Social media

@easygermanvideos (YouTube, Instagram)

Authentic street interviews and grammar tips.

@deutsch_mit_marija (YouTube)

Grammar explained clearly in German and English.

@germanwithjenny (YouTube)

Structured A1–C1 grammar & vocabulary videos.

@nicos_weg_official (YouTube/DW)

Video series following a fictional learner in Germany.

@study_german_with_katja (Instagram)

Mini language lessons and idioms.

@deutschfit (TikTok)

Grammar hacks and pronunciation tips.

@learngerman (Instagram/Facebook)

Motivational posts, quizzes, cultural tips.

@dw_learngerman

Official DW account with reels, cultural tips, and grammar help.

Work Experience and Events



Work experience in German allows you to use the language in real situations and explore German culture, history and workplaces beyond the classroom. Whether you're developing advanced language skills, gaining experience in a local organisation, or exploring opportunities in Germany, these placements show how valuable German can be in education and employment.

German-related experiences can include:

- University tasters, such as the German University Taster on Springpod
- Language services placements, including internships with AST Language Services
- Online learning, for example Advanced German: Regional Landscapes via OpenLearn
- Language schools, such as work experience at Inlingua Cheltenham
- International opportunities, including placements with German companies like Mercedes-Benz Group
- Diplomatic and cultural organisations, such as the German Embassy London (contact directly)

These opportunities help build confidence, communication and cultural understanding, while supporting future study, travel and careers linked to German language and culture.

Miss Taylor
Head of German

Work Experience and Events



[German University Taster | Springpod](#)

Join Associate Professor at UCL, Jeff Bowersox, as he explores the German language with a keen focus on history and literature.



[Internship and Work Experience Opportunities](#)

[AST Language Services](#)

Work experience: Students from school Year 12 onwards



[Advanced German | Regional Landscapes | Open Learn](#)

Free course -Advanced German: Regional landscapes. You will describe images, make notes from a variety of sources, and write a short piece about the three-nations region around Lake Constance.



[Inlingua Cheltenham - English Courses in the UK](#)

Each year a number of Bournside students are successful in securing a work placement at Inlingua.



[Work Experience | Mercedes-Benz Group](#)

Ever thought of having a work placement in Germany? It might be possible via large German owned companies like Mercedes-Benz Group.

[German Embassy London | Federal Foreign Office](#)

Explore their website and contact them directly stating why you are interested in having a placement with them.



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)



