

The department

We have an excellent opportunity for a Head of French to join the school, ideally from September 2024 but we will accommodate a later start date for the right candidate.

Boys can choose to study French, Spanish and German in every year group. A range of teaching styles are embraced and there is a high level of support from colleagues within the department and the wider Common Room.

The facilities at Radley College are excellent: the department is housed in a spacious building with generous resources. Full-time teachers have their own classroom and access to an extensive library of printed and online materials.

A commitment to maintaining exceptionally high standards in collaboration with the Head of Modern Languages and Deputy Head (Academic) is vital. There are six or seven sets in Years 10 (Remove) and 11 (Fifth Form). Typically, around 100 boys take French at IGCSE (Cambridge), approximately 55% of whom gain a Grade 9 or 8. Numbers vary from 12 to 18 at A level (Pearson), at which stage most candidates attain an A* or A grade. There are a small number of native speakers in every year group, and supporting these pupils is an additional responsibility of the Head of Department.

A significant number of pupils go on to study languages at university, including Oxford and Cambridge. All members of the department are encouraged to contribute to the extra teaching and supervision of potential Oxbridge candidates, and to provide support to boys applying to read modern languages at other universities.

The thriving Languages Society makes use of the many opportunities available in a full boarding school. Events are planned in discussion with student representatives and include translation workshops, film evenings, culinary extravaganzas, salsa evenings and stimulating talks from visiting speakers. There are annual trips for each of the languages taught on the timetable, including a long-standing Sixth Form exchange with a school in Paris.

As a boarding school, we are looking for someone who is prepared to throw themselves wholeheartedly into the life of the College. Radley is a community and those who get most out of it – whether as boys or as teachers – are those who are prepared to embrace the breadth of the education that Radley offers.

Radley College is committed to the highest standards of professionalism and quality in our teaching, and can provide opportunities for teacher training and development. We have an increasingly diverse pupil intake and we are looking to increase diversity within our Common Room. We therefore encourage and welcome applicants from all backgrounds. Some of our staff have taught in independent schools, others have not and there may be opportunities to gain a PGCE during your time at Radley.