

Students starting Y12 Spanish in September

Should you do something during the summer? Why?

Yes, otherwise your Spanish will get rusty and you could fall behind at the start. The lower your current level, the more necessary this “warm-up” work is. Keeping your language alive will give you a head start in September.

What is the minimum I should do?

1-3-5

- Buy and read ONE adapted Spanish reader (short stories or novels). We recommend www.spanishbookshop.co.uk. Pick “Graded Readers”, “Adolescent/Adult” and any book that catches your interest within the Lower-Upper Intermediate range, sometimes called B1-B2. If you are not very confident go for Upper Beginner (A2). We can lend some of these on request.
- Watch THREE films. You can re-watch the ones covered in the GCSE course or earlier, but trying new things is more advisable. Alternatively you can watch dubbed versions of non-Spanish films (i.e. the last Hunger Games or similar). Netflix, Amazon and Salisbury Library are good sources. (A list of recommended ones on request)
- Listen to music (Spotify, YouTube playlists etc.) and select your top-FIVE Spanish/Latin American tunes or songs . Look up a translation of the lyrics. Be ready to tell us about them in September. (ask for a list to give you some suggestions if not sure)

What else can I do? The more, the better!

- **More** books, more films, more music (see above).
- Pick something you **like** doing and simply read about it /listen to broadcasts /watch you tube extracts IN Spanish on it. Nothing beats doing something that you actually love i.e. are you into football? Check the Spanish newspapers, videos, live TV, radio, podcasts, websites that talk about that. (ask for a list of suggested sites/sources if you are stuck for sources-search in SPANISH)
- **Read about** Spain and South America in English. *The New Spaniards* by John Hooper or *Fire in the Blood* by Ian Gibson are good background books (a bit dated but useful on general themes). Check the press on a daily basis, even if it is just a five-minute skim of the headlines. (ask for a list)

Novels translated into English are a good option; also travel writing in English about Spanish speaking countries e.g. *The Gringo Trail* by Mark Mann, *Spain* (Paul Richardson), *Our Lady of the Sewers*, *Driving over Lemons* (Ian Stewart), or *South from Granada /The Face of Spain/The Spanish Labyrinth* (Gerald Brennan).

Mrs Matthews can lend you these books and /or many others and will be happy to assist.

I am spending time in a Spanish speaking country!

Congratulations: nothing beats that!

However it will not help much unless you have a **pro-active**, communicative and social approach to your stay. Keep a travel diary (writing), socialize (speaking/listening) and scan the language that you encounter (signs, leaflets, press...) continuously. Collect your experiences and be ready to share in September. Contact your teacher in advance and you can have a presentation slot to show us your travel pictures and tell us about your adventures.