Languages Department

An interesting new development for the Languages Department this year has been the setting up of Room 11 in the Junior School specifically for the teaching of Spanish.

The room is equipped with computer stations and a display screen, all of which allows access to the linguistic richness of the internet and other multimedia resources. With targeted funding we have built up quite an extensive set of resources for Spanish. From the moment the students pass the door, they now enter a Spanish environment, and their transition into a language learning frame of mind is facilitated. Creation of a Spanish atmosphere encourages students’ curiosity about the Spanish-speaking world and contributes to their intercultural understanding.

As use of the room develops to suit the changing needs of the program, we can set up specific areas for enrichment tasks, reserved corners for paired and small group work, displays to support specific writing and reading tasks, and seating arrangements to facilitate a range of communicative activities and strategies. Permanent displays of key expressions in Spanish, such as classroom instructions, help reinforce students’ learning. Displays of student work demonstrate progress and give opportunities to praise achievement. In short, all the facilities that characterise the students’ home classrooms, and which are assumed and normal features in the development of literacy, are there to enhance their learning of Spanish.

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