









MFL @ WILMSLOW HIGH SCHOOL

At WHS we aim to develop confident and successful linguists for the future. What makes a student feel confident and successful in a language? The ability to communicate in it.

We are currently developing our Key Stage 3 curriculum in MFL to ensure that this is possible for all students. Extensive Processing Instruction is a communicative language teaching approach developed by Dr Gianfranco Conti that uses sentence builders as both a modelling and scaffolding tool. We use the MARS' EARS sequence to turn controlled input into pushed output in order to create confident and successful linguists.

	Modelling Listening to your teacher modelling the language from your sentence builder. Starting to recognise key sounds and structures in the target language.
	Awareness-raising Becoming aware of sound and language patterns in your sentence builder. Practising using the language with the support of your sentence builder.
	Receptive processing Practicing the sounds and language through intensive reading and listening tasks to develop your ability to recognise and understand the language being used.
	Structured production Applying your knowledge so far to start to produce the language in written and spoken tasks with the support of your sentence builder.
	Expansion Diving into grammar and language rules for a deeper understanding of how the language works. Reintroducing content from previous topics.
	Autonomy Intensive reading, writing, listening, speaking and translation practice with your sentence builder being slowly removed.
	Routinisation Practising the language through retrieval practice without using the support of your sentence builder. Recycling language from previous topics over a number of months/years to broaden your use of the target language.
	Spontaneity Producing unplanned written and spoken responses and responding to previously unseen resources without the support of your sentence builder.

How does this look in the classroom?

Don't expect to walk along the MFL corridor and hear silent work.....We like to make lots of noise in MFL classrooms because it means that we are communicating (in the target language of course!). Each step of MARS' EARS is followed over a unit of work and has the three pillars of MFL at the heart of it: phonics, vocabulary and grammar. The sentence builder is there to support students in each stage of the process and the aim is for students to rely on it less and less as we move through the sequence.