Spanish: Junior Cycle (First to Third Year)

Overview of skills

The First Year programme in Spanish in St. Andrew's College introduces students to the culture and language of the Hispanic world.

In Second Year, students continue their preparation for the Junior Certificate exam, learning to understand authentic texts, practising their listening comprehension skills and developing their written expression in Spanish (including writing a letter/email).

In Third Year, students will be practising skills required for the Junior Certificate exam: aural, reading and writing. They will also work on their spoken Spanish but this is not assessed as part of the Junior Certificate.

Topics

The approach to learning the language is topic based. Students learn how to talk about themselves, their family, school, home, pastimes and holidays, amongst other topics. There is also a focus on practical language to equip them to function in a Spanish-speaking context, for example, going to a restaurant, shopping for food and clothes, using transport, booking accommodation, dealing with illness and injury, planning trips and making plans.

Grammar

Grammar holds the language together and is integral to the topics studied. Students learn how to use verbs in the present, past and future tenses. They cover other key grammatical concepts such as gender of nouns and adjectives, adverbs and prepositions, amongst others.

Homework and assessment

Spanish teachers set homework most evenings. It is crucial that pupils complete this short homework as it provides an opportunity to review and revise material covered in class.

Regular class assessments are given at the discretion of teachers, usually at the end of a topic. House examinations take place in late November/early December (Christmas exams) and again in May (summer exams). Assessments are often given before mid-term breaks in October, February and at Easter.

Junior Certificate Examination

The exam is in two parts:

- Aural examination (listening):
- Written paper Reading comprehension
  Written expression

There is a Higher Level paper and an Ordinary level paper. Classes are mixed ability and the level of a student is decided jointly between student, parent and teacher.

Textbooks:

1st year:	Primer Paso 1
2nd year:	Currently Aventura Nueva 1 and Aventura Nueva 2 and corresponding workbooks
	Vamos a escuchar 1 (listening book)
3rd year:	Aventura Nueva 2 and workbook
	Vamos a escuchar 1 (listening book)
	Past examination papers
	Less Stress, More Success (Spanish)