

French

“To have another language is to possess another soul” – Charlemagne

In the French department, we aim not only to teach our students language skills, but to help students to better understand the French-speaking world. The French speaking world is diverse in music, literature, cuisine, film and so much more, and we believe that it is of great benefit to our students for their eyes to be opened to the many exciting aspects of other cultures. Studies prove that language learning is great for the brain, feeding into skills outside the classroom. We hope that all our students will: improve their communication skills in both English and French, gain an understanding of other cultures, boost their creativity and curiosity, and most importantly, enjoy language learning!

What is studied at KS3

KS3 builds upon skills each year. We use the Studio textbooks, which provide scaffolding in order to help students develop their language skills and introduce different areas of culture from the French-speaking world. Throughout the 3 years, we celebrate French festivals and celebrations, and at the end of each year, each year group takes part in a Cultural Project to help bring French to life.

Year 7 Studio 1 textbook

Descriptions of people, school life in France, hobbies, town, holidays, opinions, high frequency words.

Use of regular and irregular verbs in the present tense with varied pronouns, use of modal verbs, asking questions and question words.

Year 8 Studio 2 textbook

Hobbies, holidays, identity, home and town.

Use of irregular and irregular verbs in 3 tenses with varied pronouns, use of reflexive verbs, asking and answering questions in different tenses.

Year 9 Studio 3 textbook

Life for young people (hobbies and friendships, health and fitness, careers and studies, holidays).

Use of irregular and irregular verbs in 5 tenses with varied pronouns, use of reflexive verbs, asking and answering questions in different tenses.

What is studied at KS4

AQA GCSE French Course

The course builds skills across a variety of areas: reading, learning vocabulary, writing, translation skills, building grammar knowledge, listening, dealing with authentic texts and speaking.

For content, 3 main themes covered across the two years, each of which contain smaller units:

1. Identity and culture – U1 Me, my family and friendships, U2 Technology in everyday life, U3 Free-time activities, U4 Customs and festivals
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest – U5 Home, town, neighbourhood and region, U6 Social issues, U7 Global issues, U8 Travel and tourism
3. Current and future study and employment – U9 My studies, U10 Life at school and college, U11 Education post-16, U12 Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Speaking, writing (including translation skills), reading and listening are all examined at the end of the 2 year course and are worth 25% each of the final grade. All 4 skills are covered within the individual topics, along with grammar which is regularly revisited and embedded into the teaching of content.

What is studied at KS5

AQA A Level French course

4 themes are covered across the two year course, each of which looks at areas of interest within the French-speaking world. A film and piece of literature are also studied, along with the Independent Research Project, which forms the main part of the A Level speaking exam. Listening, Reading, Writing (including translation skills) and Speaking are all examined at the end of the two-year course.

Aspects of French speaking society: Current Trends – La famille en voie de changement; La « cyber-société » ; Le rôle du bénévolat.

Artistic Culture in the French-speaking world – Une culture fière de son patrimoine; La musique francophone contemporaine; Le septième art

Aspects of French speaking society: Current Issues – Les aspects positifs d’une société diverse; Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?; Comment on traite les criminels

Aspects of Political-life in the French-speaking world – Les ados, le droit de vote et l’engagement politique; Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?; La politique et l’immigration