

French A-level

We are very excited to be welcoming you onto the A-level French course in September. As French teachers, we are all passionate about the French language and the French-speaking world so wanted to share with you some ideas of what you can do to keep your language skills sharp over the summer. There is also an opportunity to think about some of the sophisticated topics we will be looking at over the course of year 12 to whet your appetite. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us at the following email addresses:

- Mr Darby r.darby@holt.wokingham.sch.uk
- Miss Howgill b.howgill@holt.wokingham.sch.uk
- Mademoiselle Robillard c.robillard@holt.wokingham.sch.uk

Please use your school email address to contact us.

Something to read...

If you can, see if you can get a dual-language book from your library or online. Using stories you know in the first instance is a great way to build up your confidence.

For current affairs, download the following French news apps:

- 20 minutes <https://www.20minutes.fr/>
- France 24 <https://www.france24.com/fr/>
- Le Monde <https://www.lemonde.fr/>

Also, it would be a good idea to buy these really useful A Level resources so you have your own copies at the start of the course:

- A-level French - Year 1 Textbook (ISBN 978-0-19-836688-1)
- We will provide access to Kerboodle for the listening activities so you don't need to subscribe to Kerboodle. It also has all the textbook content on so please do not worry if you can't get the textbook itself. You will still be able to access the course.
- A-level French - Grammar and Translation workbook (ISBN 978-0-19-841553-4)

Something to watch ...

Here are some other great French film that you could watch:

- *Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles*
- *Les Choristes*
- *Ne le dit à personne*
- *Entre les murs*
- *Les intouchables*
- *Amélie*
- *La Haine*

If you have Netflix, try this link for some French film suggestions:

<https://www.onnetflix.co.uk/category/french-films>

If you have a DVD collection at home, see if it's possible to watch films or box sets you know in French with English subtitles. If you know the storyline, this can help you pick up new language in French.

On YouTube, check out the following channels:

- www.youtube.com *Brut* – topical articles in French, often with subtitles
- www.youtube.com *Un jour, une question* – simple, easy to follow videos
- www.youtube.com *Topito* – much less serious and tongue in cheek humour
- www.youtube.com *Français Immersion* – Grammar videos but in French

The important thing to realise is that you do not need to understand every word as just being exposed to the language is the most important thing. However, the visual nature of these resources mean that this can help with your comprehension.

Something to listen to ...

Here are some music suggestions from some of your teachers:

Mr Darby

- Christophe Maé
- Stromae
- Grégory Lemarchal

Miss Howgill

- Louane
- Coeur de Pirate
- Julian Doré
- Christine and the Queens
- Acrobates

Mademoiselle Robillard

- Indochine – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : L'Aventurier
- Tryo – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : L'hymne de nos campagnes
- Angèle – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Tout oublier
- M Pokora – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Tombé
- Jenifer – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : J'attends l'amour
- Indila – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Dernière danse
- Black M – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Sur ma route
- Claudio Capéo – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Un homme debout
- Kyo – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Le Graal
- Céline Dion – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : J'irai où tu iras
- Slimane – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Avant toi
- Soprano – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Mon précieux
- LEJ – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : La dalle
- Zazie – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Je suis un homme
- Grégoire – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Toi + Moi
- Kendji Girac – favourite song (*chanson préférée*) : Andalouse

Top tip - Find the artists' channels on www.youtube.com and listen to some of their music.

Someone to follow ...

<http://www.coeurdepirate.com/>

(ou l'Instagram @beatricepirate)

<https://www.newsinslowfrench.com/>

<http://www.caminteresse.fr/>

<http://www.stylist.fr/>

(Si vous aimez la mode et les choses comme ça, c'est aussi disponible gratuit sur le « New stand » app pour les iPhone et équivalent.)

<http://www.blogotheque.net/>

(Si vous aimez la musique, la blogotheque est excellente. Plein d'articles et interviews.)

<http://www.huffingtonpost.fr/?country=FR#>

(Les articles sur tous ! Politique, mode, culture, économie, beaucoup de choix.)

Youtube vloggers or bloggers eg DamonandJo

Research Activity

It is a good idea to have at least a basic understanding and appreciation of the topics you are going to be studying during the A-level French course. Using the Internet and books, complete the following tasks which will prepare you for the 6 topics you will study in year 12. You should try to produce notes using the Cornell Note Taking System (<http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cornell-Note-Taking-System.pdf>).

If you can, please bring your research with you in September.

Research the following questions in the English Language press. Make a short list of no more than 100 words in French or English of the most important points.

1. What are the most important changes in the modern family over the last 25 years?
2. How has new technology made our daily lives easier?
3. Why is volunteering important?

Now try and complete these 3 tasks:

4. Find 5 interesting facts about one of the UNESCO world heritage sites in France.
5. Which one of the musical artists suggested by your teachers (above) was your favourite and why?
6. Which one of the French films suggested by your teachers (above) was your favourite and why?