

French KS3 and KS4

What are the aims of these courses?

- To develop students' ability and ambition to use French effectively for purposes of practical communication and as a skill for life.
- To develop an awareness of the nature of Language learning.
- To offer an insight into the culture and identity of French speaking countries.
- To encourage positive attitudes towards learning a foreign Language.



What is the content of these courses?

GCSE French builds on the language learning skills students have developed through Middle Schools. The four Language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be taught through three broad themes outlined in the specifications, relating to: Identity and Culture; Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest; and Current and Future Study and Employment.

The courses also require students to:

- Understand and apply key grammatical concepts.
- Translate sentences and short texts from English into French and French into English.
- Understand and respond to different types of written Language, including adapted or abridged literary texts from poems, letters, short stories, essays, novels or plays.

Students are encouraged to communicate in French and, therefore, basic communication skills are of paramount importance. All lessons are delivered in French allowing students to be immersed in an authentic Language learning environment with the use of television, video, computer-assisted learning, audio and reading materials. We emphasise the importance of using Information Technology in Language learning and students are scheduled for a fortnightly lesson in the department ICT suite.

What will be assessed during the course?

This is a linear course and students are assessed at the end of Year 11. Students will be assessed in four skill areas, where listening, speaking, reading and writing will be equally weighted at 25%. The specifications in French will be tiered at Foundation and Higher level, but with the requirement to enter all skills at the same tier. Listening, reading and writing will be assessed by an exam at the end of Year 11, and speaking will take the form of a teacher-conducted exam at a time specified by the exam board. Students will be awarded an overall grade based on their performance across all four assessment areas.

What equipment will be required?

While dictionaries are not permitted under exam conditions, access to a bilingual dictionary, electronically or in hard copy will help with the completion of homework tasks. Students will also need access to a computer to complete interactive vocabulary learning, to practise grammatical structures or to extend their learning independently. Students can use the computers in the department ICT suite by arrangement with their Language teacher.

We also advise that students have a fully equipped pencil case with a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener and a pack of highlighter pens.