



French A level – L6

Curriculum Intent

The French department seeks to develop ambitious and resilient linguists who recognise their common humanity and strive to gain inter-cultural understanding and respect. We aim to provide an understanding of French in a range of themes from social changes, global issues and history which enables students to communicate effectively in authentic situations on their exchange visits and prepared for the challenges of developing the language at a higher level and with an aspiration to continue the language at University or to at least see its value in their future career paths. We intend develop our students to be inquisitive and curious about Francophone cultures, knowledgeable and understanding, open-minded and courageous as they personally develop through their learning of French.

«Avoir une autre langue c'est posséder une deuxième âme», Charlemagne

Students will learn:

A level grammar structures and revision

Theme 1

- Changes in French society: Family diversity; Matrimony; School pressure; School reforms and Further studies; Work-life balance; Strikes; Women in the work place.

Theme 2

- Francophone culture: Francophone Music; The Influence of Music; Media; Festivals & traditions.

Theme 3

- Immigration and multicultural France: Immigration and integration in France; Challenges of immigration; The Far Right.

Theme 4

- Occupation and Resistance: Occupied France; Anti-Semitism in France; The Vichy Regime; Resistance

What does excellence look like?

- Confident and accurate use of French with varied vocabulary and structures, including complex language.
- Critical analysis of issues, themes and cultural or social contexts demonstrated through convincing interpretations.
- Consistent use of evidence to justify points of view.
- Detailed, logical arguments and conclusions that consistently link.

Knowledge, understanding & Skills

- Vocabulary of themes covered
- Response to spoken text in writing, showing understanding of the main points, gist and detail.
- Response to written text in writing and speaking.
- Summary of a spoken text in writing.
- Translation into and from French.
- Discussion on a theme showing knowledge and understanding of the target language context and culture.
- Developing an argument and reaching a logical conclusion.
- Expressing viewpoints and justifying opinions.

How can you enhance your learning at home?

- All students have access to a French Sixth Form Padlet with a wealth of online resources such as LePointduFle, 20minutes.fr, TV5Monde, languagesonline, Quizlet and Memrise.
- Hodder Edexcel A level textbook.
- Flipped Learning.
- Accompanying work on Dynamic Learning.
- Essay banks.
- ZigZag Resources for Reading and Listening comprehension.
- Translation Tasks.
- Oxford A level French translation workbook.
- William Tweed Resources Library.
- Research each of the themes to build up a knowledge bank with facts and statistics.

How will we assess impact?

Our teaching encourages regular learning of key vocabulary and refinement of grammatical structures that are tested regularly. Translation skills are honed via weekly 10-point tests. Teachers assess pupils less formally in class via the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Pupils work collaboratively in pairs and groups to constantly improve their speaking skills, providing peer feedback.

Each half-term pupils take an assessment in test conditions during lesson time. In June of the Lower Sixth pupils take a full-length A level-style examination, which helps to predict their final grade as accurately as possible and to offer the students an opportunity to experience the speed and attention to detail required in the examination. Students control the audio themselves for listening, within a set time limit.



International Opportunities

Visits Programme

In the Spring term of the Lower Sixth, all pupils must complete a work experience placement. We offer all students of French the opportunity to undertake a two-week work placement in Paris. Previous work placements have included primary schools, shops and restaurants. Pupils stay with a family to give them the maximum opportunity to improve their language skills and to better understand the culture.

This is an exchange programme, so each students' partner also stays here for two weeks, whilst completing their own work placement.

Within the curriculum

The French A level curriculum is designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of Francophone culture. Themes 1, 3 & 4 focus on France and Theme 2 is about the music, media and festivals and traditions from all French-speaking countries.

Students are encouraged to research each theme beyond lessons and set work to ensure that they can draw on a wide knowledge of the culture and society.

