

French GCSE

As the second most widely spoken language in the world, French is extremely influential in many fields of study. A knowledge of French will enrich career prospects, facilitate travel and improve students' confidence as modern citizens of the world.

By studying GCSE French, students will learn to communicate effectively whilst taking account of cultural nuances. The cyclical curriculum enables students to consolidate their learning whilst developing their confidence and broadening their skill sets. This is achieved through the study of a number of key ideas.

These ideas include:

- Giving and seeking opinions on a range of themes.
- Using language in context and communicating in authentic situations.
- Gaining an appreciation of cultural differences, embedded within the French-speaking environment.
- Expressing/presenting ideas clearly and concisely in a foreign language.
- Extracting and evaluating information from authentic sources, including photos.
- Applying rules and logic to translate French language texts.
- Drawing inferences from literary sources.
- Preparing students for the world of work.
- Enabling students to live and work abroad.

The topics we study include :

- Talking about friends and family
- Talking about life when you were younger
- Discussing your free time
- Talking about technology and social media
- Discussing daily life
- French festivals
- Describing where we live
- Talking about past and future holidays
- Talking about school
- Describing work experience and your future plans
- Discussing environmental issues

How will we study?

Lessons in French will cover skills based work in Listening, Reading, Translation (from and into French) Speaking and Writing. Grammar is taught both explicitly and in context of the topic areas and reinforced throughout the course.

Teaching is highly interactive and paired and group work is a key feature. Learning is supported by textbooks, authentic materials (music/film/articles) and on-line activities as well as tailor-made resources. Speaking is a key feature of lessons and pupils are given the opportunity to attend speaking sessions in smaller groups.

How will my work be assessed?

There are regular half-termly assessments throughout the course which test the different skills. Not all skills are tested in every assessment. We always feedback on an assessment and analyse how we can improve. There are regular vocabulary tests and informal spoken assessments.

The GCSE is assessed with examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

Assessment

There is equal weighting for the four skills, 25% each.

Listening (Paper 1) Higher: 45 minutes (including 5 minutes of reading time)

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Speaking (Paper 2)

The new emphasis is on greater spontaneity. This should mean greater challenge.

Higher lasts 12 minutes. Teachers will do the tests and the board will mark it.

There will be a role play (15 marks), a photo card (15 marks) and general conversation (30 marks).

Reading (Paper 3) Higher: 1 hour.

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

Writing (Paper 4) Higher: 1 hour 15 minutes - 3 questions - two structured compositions from bullet points (with choice) and translation into French.