

French – Subject Overview

The French Department aims to encourage an enthusiasm for language learning that will help pupils to achieve the highest levels of academic success as well as giving them the important knowledge and skills of a Modern Language which they can use outside and beyond their school life.

We want our pupils to engage actively with the language. At Key Stage 3, we concentrate on learning and developing the basic principles of practical language, including buying snacks, asking for directions and booking hotel rooms and travel plans. Through their language studies, students develop the 4 skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. We aim to deliver lessons in a lively and communicative way so that pupils can understand the language in both the spoken and written form and express themselves confidently, verbally and in writing. Grammar is taught alongside the communicative skills so that pupils have the tools to use the language creatively and accurately. We believe that it forms an important part of what we teach, but we also believe that it is equally important for students to be confident in getting their message across and making themselves understood. Building and encouraging confidence, spontaneity and enthusiasm are central to our departmental vision.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, students follow the Studio course. In addition to the core programme, we use a wide range of resources such as audio and video resources from the Internet and our language-based classrooms are each equipped with an interactive white board.

Year 7

Students learn how to talk about self, family and friends, school, where they live and the local area, holidays and free time. They learn how to give opinions with justifications and say what they would like to do. They are introduced to verbs (past, present and immediate future), adjectives and basic sentence structure.

Year 8

Students learn how to discuss TV programmes, travelling to Paris, different types of music, clothes and what they did at the weekend. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of the past tense.

Year 9

Students learn how to discuss different aspects of teenage life including use of social media, sport and fitness, healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, careers and future plans, holidays, shopping, rights and responsibilities

Students then have the option to continue to GCSE at the end of Year 9.

Modern Foreign Languages at Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 pupils follow the AQA GCSE (8658) Specification.

Topics are organised into 3 themes

- Theme 1: Identity and Culture
- Theme 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Theme 3 Current and Future Study and Employment.

Assessment is at the end of Y11 and students will be entered at either Foundation or Higher Level in all four assessment skills:

Unit 1:

A Listening exam completed at the end of Year 11 worth 25% of the overall grade

Unit 2:

Speaking Assessments prepared over Years 10 and 11 worth 25% of the overall grade.

Students will need to show that they can communicate effectively for a variety of purposes through: Role play, response to a photo stimulus and general conversation on topics covered throughout the course.

Unit 3:

A Reading exam completed at the end of Year 11 worth 25% of the overall grade

Unit 4:

Written Exam worth 25% of the overall grade. Students will need to show that they can communicate effectively in writing through a written response to a photo, translation from English into French and a structured writing task.

Depending on grades in the practice tests students will either sit the Higher or the Foundation paper.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Key Stage 4 extra curricular support sessions at lunchtime and after school.

Useful Websites:

Languages online: www.languagesonline.org.uk

GCSE Bitesize: www.bbc.com/bitesize

Seneca: www.senecalearning.com