

French

Examination Board: Edexcel

Staff Lead

Mrs R Kent, MA, PGCE

Why Study French?

A level French is designed to offer a stimulating content, which enables students to develop their linguistic skills alongside their understanding of the culture and society of countries where French is spoken. The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Students study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. They will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and learn about political engagement and who wields political power in the French-speaking world. Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice. During the course, there will be the opportunity to support the Year 7 Normandy trip as a Language Leader.

The best language learners are keen to speak, not shy to give their opinions, pay attention to detail (accuracy becomes increasingly important) and are interested in what's going on in France and the French-speaking world. They keep up to date by reading magazines and checking the foreign news on the internet.

“The A Level course is an amazing introduction and a real eye opener to the real life topics in current French society. It allows you to develop your skills both in and out of the classroom.”
Year 13 student

Career Paths & Degree Courses

French can lead to higher education language courses including combined courses with another subject such as politics or business. Language skills are highly sought after in the business world. Specific careers involving French include: tourism, marketing, secretarial, translating, teaching, fashion, politics, business.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in GCSE French.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Year 12

In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, for example the role of families, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. Music, politics, literature and film all contribute to a varied and interesting course of study. A focus on spontaneity and authentic interaction are key to seeing students' confidence and aptitude flourish.

Year 13

In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations.