

FRENCH



GENERAL INFORMATION

AIMS

Our French course aims to produce students who will:

- Have the confidence to communicate fluently and accurately in French.
- Be able to understand the written and spoken word to a high level
- Have an understanding of the society and culture of the country of the language studied
- Achieve their full potential in examinations and have an excellent foundation for further study

With the continuing development of the European community and the increasing globalisation of trade students who have these skills in one or two European languages will have a considerable advantage when seeking employment in the future.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

During the course students learn to understand and communicate fluently in French through a series of themes and the study of a film and a book. Two themes and the study of a film are assessed at the end of Year 12 for the Advanced Subsidiary qualification. In addition for those going on to do the Advanced GCE there are a further two themes covered in Year 13 along with the study of a book and an independent research project which forms the basis for their Speaking exam in that year. The table below shows the set up and details of the course and its assessment.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

The French staff are all experienced teachers with a proven record of successful teaching and results at this level. The department is particularly well equipped. For each pupil the department provides a textbook, grammar and exam preparation workbooks, vocabulary guide and a Collins bilingual dictionary. We also have a large stock of printed resources, from textbooks to newspapers and magazines, and video and audio recordings.

CONTACT WITH ABROAD

Direct contact with the countries where the French is spoken is constantly encouraged and personal exchanges are highly recommended. Assuming that there is sufficient interest, students studying French will have the opportunity to take part in a French exchange programme hosting a French student over here and spending a week studying in France staying with a host student's family.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students taking AS/A Level French will need a B grade at GCSE. This, combined with high levels of motivation and commitment, will be necessary for success at this level.

STUDENTS' VIEWS

'I have very much enjoyed studying French at AS'

'With the numbers of top companies trading in Europe having French will help me get a job in the future.'

'I have found the course interesting and my French has improved a lot.'

| Year | Themes covered | Assessment Units | AS % | A % | Timing |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-------|-----|-------------------------|
| Year 1 Advanced Subsidiary | Theme 1 Being a young person in a French-speaking society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships /relationships Youth trends, issues and personal identity Educational and employment opportunities | Unit 1 Speaking 2 tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguing a point of view based on a stimulus card. Discussion based on a second written stimulus card. | 30% | 12% | April to May of Year 12 |
| | Theme 2 Understanding the French-speaking world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional culture and heritage in France, and other French speaking countries and communities France, Canada, Switzerland and les DOMTOMS in a European context Literature, art, film and music in the French speaking world | Unit 2 Listening, Reading and Translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening comprehension Reading comprehension Translation into English | 37.5% | 15% | End of Year 12 exam |
| | Study of a set film | Unit 3 Writing 2 essay questions totaling 350 words on the film studied. | 32.5% | 13% | End of Year 12 exam |
| Year 2 Advanced GCE | Theme 3 Diversity and difference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration and integration Cultural identity and marginalisation Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference Discrimination and diversity | Unit 4 Speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of an independent research project Discussion on the content of the research project | | 18% | April to May of Year 13 |
| | Theme 4 France 1940-1950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From June 1940-May 1945 (occupation and end of WWII) Life in Occupied France and the cultural dimension (theatre, cinema, literature) 1945-1950: rebuilding and restructuring Repercussions for Modern Day France | Unit 5 Listening, Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening comprehension Reading comprehension Translation into French | | 23% | End of Year 13 exam |
| | Study of a set text. | Unit 6: Writing 2 essay questions totaling 400 words on aspects of the book studied. | | 19% | End of Year 13 exam |

