

The French Department

The learning of French enables students to increase their knowledge and understanding of how language works and develop strategies which lay the foundations for future study and the learning of other languages. Students appreciate that the ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for learning, leisure and employment in this country and throughout the world.

Across the different Key Stages, learners become familiar with the sounds, written form and structures of the language together with an increasing range of vocabulary.

Learners develop their language skills in a range of interesting, relevant contexts and through a variety of enjoyable activities. The four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing will be developed through games, pair/group work, individual reading/writing tasks, individual research on the Internet and talking to native speakers within the department, on visits to France and/or taking part in our French Exchange.

As students progress through the different stages they will speak and write at greater length, with more details and using a widening range of structures. They will extend their language by adapting and manipulating previously learned language and by understanding and using a wider range of language.

The Content of the Key Stages

Key Stage 3

Students are given the opportunity to develop their skills through the following topics:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Making friends	Describing your family	Daily routine
School	Shopping	Events in the past
Free time	Being an ideal guest	Town & countryside
Pets	Going to Paris	School life
House & home	Describing a trip to Paris in the past	Healthy living
Holidays		Leisure

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

At GCSE level, students continue to study KS3 topics adding more detail and extending their language. They will have the opportunity for personal research and will be able to talk about interests which are not necessarily listed in the specification, but which are personal to them.

Key Stage 5 (AS/A2 Level)

AS and A Level French builds on the basis of GCSE, enabling students to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively. Students study topics such as 'The Individual and Society' and 'Social and Political Issues'. They will also have the chance to study a French book and a French film.