



GET READY TO STUDY FRENCH

If you are planning to study A Level French with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

FAQ

What specification will I study?

You will be studying the AQA A-Level French specification which you can find [here](#)

How many lessons will I have a week?

You will have 4 lessons a week, each lesson is 1 hour and 10 minutes as well as speaking practice in small groups.

Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?

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What subjects go well with French?

French will enhance any combination of A Levels. You will develop a range of communication skills, as well as gain subject knowledge (course content). The course content has links to aspects of language and literature, cultural identity, Film studies, History, Law, Geography, Spanish, Sociology and Politics but also students taking Maths, Science or Arts subjects often take French successfully. Learning a language gives you a unique skill: it is an asset to accompany your other A levels.

What grades should I have?

In addition to the general sixth form entry requirements, learners **must have grade 6 or above** in GCSE French.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

French A level builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It focuses on the French language, and the culture and current issues of francophone (French-speaking) communities. You will practise and develop French speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar skills as well as gain an in-depth knowledge, understanding and appreciation of *la Francophonie*. It is always amazing how learners progress in leaps and bounds as they move from their initial GCSE level to their Year 13 linguistic competence by end of the Advanced Level French course!

The course will cover the following topics and themes in relation to French-speaking countries and societies :

Aspects of French-speaking society:

- The changing nature of family (La famille en voie de changement)
- The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)
- The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)

- Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)
- Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ?)
- How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels)

Political and artistic culture

- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)
- Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)
- Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma : le septième art)

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et engagement politique)
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power? (manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?)
- Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration)

We will also study a book and a film in French, which are:

- the film '*la Haine*' by Matthieu Kassovitz in Year 12;
- the novel '*Un Secret*' by Philippe Grimbert in Year 13.

Speaking: You will have the opportunity to do regular speaking practice in small groups or one-to-one, with support and guidance that is tailored to your individual needs.

IRP: During the French A Level course, you will carry out an Independent Research Project (IRP) on any French-related topic of your choosing. You usually begin this at the end of Year 12. Your IRP must be related to an aspect of French-speaking society. Examples of recent IRP topics include: *the reputation of French police, Marseille football club, the rock band Noir Désir, Edith Piaf, feminism in France, surrealism of André Breton, the actor Omar Sy...* Discussing in French what interests you most in your IRP topic will be the main task in your final speaking exam at the end of Year 13.

WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study on the A Level French course, you will need the following:

- An A4 level-arch folder with dividers for your notes and work;
- A small notebook for writing down new vocabulary every lesson;
- A notepad to take notes during lessons;
- Access to a computer/smart phone/tablet at home to access online learning materials (we use Kerboodle, for example);
- A bilingual French-English dictionary (the bigger the better – this can be new or second-hand – check out your local charity shops!).

“**Un Secret**” by Philippe Grimbert : You are advised to purchase your own copy of this novel (new or second hand), so that you can make your own notes in it. This must be the French version (not the English translation).

Mot A Mot for French Vocabulary for AQA A-Level, by Paul Humberstone and Kirsty Thathapudi (6th edition or later) is a valuable resource that it is advisable to obtain and use weekly to broaden your vocabulary.

Note that you will always be able to borrow copies of *Mot A Mot*, *Un Secret* and other relevant textbooks from the College, for use during lessons.

FIND OUT MORE

These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

Careers	Journalism, sales and marketing, PR, logistics, business, banking and finance, accountancy, law, media, tourism and hospitality, charity and humanitarian work, diplomacy and security, education, translation and interpreting, public service and even politics! French will be an asset in any role where you will need to communicate effectively with other people.
Social Media	You should follow at least 2 French speaking social media accounts. Here are some examples https://www.instagram.com/magphosphore/ (French magazine for teens) https://www.instagram.com/wedemainado/ https://www.instagram.com/omarsyofficial/ Challenge: are you brave enough to change your phone settings to French?
YouTube	A selection of French vloggers and French learning YouTube channels: https://www.youtube.com/c/EasyFrench https://www.youtube.com/c/PieceofFrench https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSKdvgqdnj72_SLgpp7BDTg Also French film and TV shows can be watched on Youtube, e.g. <i>Mariés au premier regard</i>
Further Reading / Useful websites	<u>LANGUAGE</u> www.languagesonline.org.uk www.quizlet.com (French language quizzes.... and other subjects too) <u>FRENCH CURRENT AFFAIRS & NEWS</u> https://www.1jour1actu.com/ (French news for teens) TV5MONDE - Langue française www.francetvinfo.fr http://www.bfmtv.com/ French newspapers: www.liberation.fr http://www.lefigaro.fr/ www.lemonde.fr

Films/series (watch in French with English subtitles and then watch in French with French subtitles)

On Netflix

[French Movies & TV Shows | Netflix Official Site](#)

Discover what French language TV shows and films you can stream, for example :

Netflix: 'les 7 vies de Léa (the 7 lives of Lea)', 'Dix pour cent' (call my agent), Lupin, Le fabuleux destin d'Amelie Poulain, Intouchables...

Disney +: 'weekend family' (Comedy) 'Oussekiné' (drama on police violence based on real facts) or watch your favourite Disney films in French!

Amazon prime: [Amazon.co.uk: french films included with prime video - English / French / Certificate: 3 selec...: Prime Video](#)

Watch French Podcasts:

[Coffee Break French podcast - Free on The Podcast App](#)

[News in Slow French - French Podcast](#)

Songs Practise your French by listening to songs with the lyrics:

[Spotify – Chansons Françaises pour A level](#)

[Learn French for Free with Music Videos, Lyrics and Karaoke! \(lyricstraining.com\)](#)

Online Dictionaries

[Cambridge French–English Dictionary: Translate from French to](#)

[English Linguee | Dictionary for German, French, Spanish, and](#)

[more](#)

[English to French, Italian, German & Spanish Dictionary - WordReference.com](#)

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

It is important that all the required activities are completed in preparation for starting your course. Please bring these completed activities with you at **Induction**.

Completing these activities will give yourself greater insight into the course to help ensure you have made the right A level subject choice.

GRAMMAR WORK

Revise the following grammar points:

- **Present** tense of regular verbs : -er, -re and -ir verbs
- **Present** tense of these key irregular verbs: être, aller, avoir, faire, devoir, pouvoir, vouloir, savoir, venir, prendre, mettre.
- **Present** tense of reflexive verbs - e.g. je me couche, elles s'entendent bien
- **Perfect** tense (past) including both *avoir* and *être* verbs - e.g. je suis allée, j'ai mangé
- **Imperfect** tense - e.g. j'étais, ils faisaient
- **Immediate future** tense (going to do) - e.g. je vais manger
- **Future** tense (will do) – e.g. je mangerai, nous boirons

You should learn and practice French verbs in these tenses by using www.languagesonline.org.uk Click on “Français” then “Grammar” then select from the menu.

VOCABULARY

Get into the habit of learning 5 new French words every day! Start with vocabulary from Year 12 topics “Changing family vocabulary” and “Cyber Society”. You can practise vocabulary by creating your own study sets online, e.g. by using:

<https://quizlet.com>

and

<https://www.memrise.com/>

ENRICHMENT

Using the links from the 'find out more' section above, try to regularly listen to French podcasts, watch films, go on French social media, or practise French songs on *Lyrics-training* to create a 'French summer immersion experience', exposing yourself to French every day!

INDUCTION TASK

A- “Mon Journal français”

Fill out an ‘activities log’ documenting any French work you are doing over the holidays

This could include any grammar practice but also any enrichment activities, such as watching a film, going on the links mentioned in ‘find out more’. Aim to do at least 3 activities per week.

See the example below:

Week beginning	My French Activities	My Comments
1 July	Changed phone setting to French Watched fist 2 episodes of ‘7 lives of Lea’ on Netflix Practised present tense of irregular verbs	Really enjoyed the series and subtitled helped me understand some French New French words I learned were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable – sustainable • Haut – high/top • ...
8 July	Listened to “coffee break” French podcast Practised perfect tense on languages online	Struggling to remember perfect tense-need to practice more
15 July	Listened to spotify French playlist Practised a Stromae song on ‘lyrics training’	Loved songs by French singer Francis Cabrel and will write my written text on him.
22 July	Researched singer Francis Cabrel and completed first draft of my written paragraph	
29 July	Practised family vocabulary on Quizlet	Remembered quite a few words from GCSE
5 August	Finished written text. Practised future tense on languagesonline.org.uk	
12 August	Revised all the key irregular French verbs	Made a list of the tricky ones

B. SPEAKING TASK – Je me présente...

Prepare an oral presentation about yourself (up to 2 minutes).

You can say what you are like, or what you used to be like, or you could talk about your hopes for the future You may rely on your notes during the presentation, but it is important that you use a variety of tenses as well as some opinions. E.g. *Avant, quand j'étais plus jeune, j'aimais...* *A l'avenir, j'aimerais voyager en* You will not have to perform this in front of the class, unless you want to, but you will be expected to use it in the small group speaking sessions in September.

C. WRITTEN TEXT – your own French research – Une Célébrité

Choose any French speaking-famous person that you are interested in (see the list below for examples), research them and write a 3 or 4 short paragraphs about them in French (approx. 100-150 words).

To get you started here are a few suggestions (you can choose any francophone celebrity, it doesn't have to be one from this list):

- **Actors:** Omar Sy, Léa Seydoux, Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Marie Trintignant
- **Directors:** Xavier Dolan, Jean Luc Godard, Celine Sciamma
- **Singers:** Pomme, Stromae, Angèle, Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Gaël Faye, BigFlo & Oli, MC Solaar
- **Sport:** Laure Manaudou, Alice Milliat, Killian M'bappé, Surya Bonaly, Eric Cantona
- **Politics:** Emmanuel Macron, Charles de Gaulle, Christine Lagarde, Marine le Pen
- **Fashion:** Coco Chanel, Jean-Paul Gaultier
- **Literature:** Albert Camus, Marc Lévy, Victor Hugo, Simone de Beauvoir, Marguerite Duras

Bonne chance et à bientôt !