

COMMUNICATIONS :

FRENCH



Team Leader (Communications): Miss J Bennett
Programme Leader (MFL): Mrs S Marie-Anaïs

Aims:

- To provide a successful and enjoyable learning experience for students of all levels of ability
- To develop communicative skills
- To increase language awareness
- To develop learning and study skills
- To develop social skills
- To develop thinking skills
- To provide opportunities for students to become successful learners and confident individuals
- To broaden cultural horizon, foster sympathetic attitudes to other cultures and encourage students to become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

Staffing:

There are 2 languages teachers (French specialists).

Accommodation:

- All lessons are taught in the Language area, which consists of 2 specialist classrooms.
- The Languages office provides an area for small group work for children who work with a Teaching Assistant.
- Data projectors and interactive whiteboards in each classroom.

Homework:

Homework is set on a regular basis each week in all years, and it is set according to the school's homework timetable. Homework often involves learning vocabulary, or short presentations already prepared in class. Homework can also consist of a written or reading task on the topic being studied at the time.

Student grouping:

- In Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability groups.
- Setting is introduced from year 8 onwards.
- Students experiencing learning difficulty have the opportunity to work with the Teaching Assistant.

KEY STAGE 3: YEARS 7-9

Course:

The Languages department follows the National Curriculum to help students develop 4 skills (Attainment Targets) through a topic-based approach. The National Curriculum in Modern Foreign Languages covers the following 4 Attainment Targets:

- Listening and responding
- Speaking
- Reading and responding
- Writing

Assessment:

- Students are assessed on a regular basis in all 4 skill areas, through their performance in various “core” tasks, and through end of unit assessments. Students are encouraged to review their own work at intervals during the year, in order keep a record of their progress, reflect on their strengths weaknesses and agree on learning targets.

Independent Learning:

From the beginning of Year 7, students will be encouraged to develop important strategies to help them become independent learners, e.g.:

- Learning how to pronounce common sounds in French and working out sound patterns in order to pronounce new words accurately
- Developing techniques for memorising new vocabulary
- Understanding how French works and how to adapt and re-use language in new situations.

Such skills underpin the study of languages and equip students to become successful and confident linguists.

- From Year 7 Target Language is used as much as possible by teachers during lessons when dealing with everyday matters in the classroom, and pupils are helped to understand the relevant language (slow repetition, mimes). Pupils are also encouraged to respond in the foreign language whenever possible (posters around the classroom with key phrases and questions)
- Students regularly have the opportunity to work in pairs or small groups to encourage independent work and communicative skills.
- Reading is encouraged from an early stage – for pleasure and for acquiring vocabulary. The internet offers valuable reading resources for pupils of all abilities, and a selection of useful websites is suggested to students in all years.
- Dictionary skills are taught to support independent learning and we strongly encourage pupils to buy their own bilingual dictionary. We recommend the **Collins pocket Dictionary**, or the **Collins Easy Learning Dictionary**.

KEY STAGE 4: YEARS 10-11

This course consists of various topics examined at Foundation and Higher levels in Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Each language skill equally represents 25% of the total GCSE. Questions across all four skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

Assessment:

The French GCSE consists of four externally examined papers based on the following language skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Students must complete their Speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in Year 11. Each paper is available at Foundation tier or Higher tier. Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The Faculty organises a trip to northern France in term 6 for year 8 students.