



Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their French A Level, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 5 French:

The examination board for A-level French is AQA. You can find further information relating to the specification here: [AQA A-LEVEL specification](#)

The core course content is split into two sections, which are each divided into 6 sub sections. The first 3 in each section are taught in Year 12 and the remaining 3 in each section in Year 13.

A Level French core content:

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- 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)

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

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

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

- 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)

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

- 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)

Cultural input:

In addition to the core content, students will study a novel (Bonjour Tristesse) in Year 12, and a film (La Haine) in Year 13. The film is available on clickview and various streaming services, but students will need to purchase their own copy of the play. (We will advise you on the particular version later in the course.)

Oral:

In Year 12, students will have ½ hour a fortnight in small groups with our Foreign Language Tutor, Ms Aquilina, where they will practise their speaking skills further. In Year 13 this will change to ½ hour a fortnight in small groups and ½ hour a fortnight individual sessions. Part 1 of the oral exam involves students responding to questions on a stimulus card, for which they have a short amount of preparation time. These stimulus cards are all connected to the core topics. Part 2 is where they present their Independent Research Project (IRP). In the summer term of Year 12 we introduce them to the IRP, where they choose any aspect of life in a French speaking country e.g. a famous person, a historical event, and research it over the next 9 months before doing an exam where they present their findings and answer questions put to them by an outside examiner. This part of the exam usually takes place before they go on study leave.

Students will sit 3 papers:

Paper 1: 2 ½ hours. Listening, Reading and Translations. (50%)

Paper 2: 2 hours. 1 essay on the film and 1 on the play. (20%)

Paper 3: 21-23 mins. 1 stimulus card and IRP. (30%)

Resources/organisation:

The course will continue to be organised through a Google Classroom which students will all have access to. In Year 12 students will have 5 lessons a fortnight, and in Year 13, 4 lessons a fortnight. These will be split between 2 teachers who will each cover their own elements of the course. Students are expected to organise their own notes accordingly. We expect students to read around the subject, go through grammar notes and learn vocabulary outside of lessons. Kerboodle provides an online textbook, as it did at GCSE.

Career Links:

We recommend that you have a look at: <https://www.thelanguagesgateway.uk/> to find out how languages can be useful in a variety of careers.

The students also have access to the career pages on our website which also features videos from our alumni.

Homework and assessments:

Homework of 1 hour duration will be set in French for 4 out of 5 lessons in Year 12 and 4 out of 4 lessons in Year 13 to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school and learn the vocabulary and grammar covered. Homework can take many different forms, but is always relevant to what is being taught in lessons.

Feedback is given orally in class, on Google Classroom, on paper for written paragraph assessments, and in other appropriate ways. The types of feedback given can be found on the Feedback PDF in this linked folder: [Linked documents](#). Assessments can be in the form of vocabulary tests and end of topic tests (writing, reading, listening, speaking) as well as end of year and mock assessments.

Extension activities:

In addition to the resources on the internal MFL site, we would recommend listening to French music; having a French playlist is something many students benefit from. Watching French TV programmes or films can, of course, also help. We would recommend students to read French books or magazines in their spare time, there are lots of resources in the library. During the 2 years of the course, we are

often given access to competitions run by various University French departments, the French Institute and others, which we pass on to students as and when they arise.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Aston at aaston@ahs.bucks.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A. Aston
Head of French