

This is a linear specification which leads to an A Level examination to be taken in June 2023. Some of the topics will already be familiar to you from IGCSE but you will be studying them in greater breadth and depth.

Topics in Lower Sixth will include Family, the 'cyber-society', French culture, music and cinema. In Upper Sixth the topics we study will include multiculturalism, immigration and politics. We also study literature (see the topics below) and French film. The current film studied in Lower Sixth is *Intouchables*, the story of a friendship between a disabled businessman and his immigrant carer and in Upper Sixth we study *La Haine*, an iconic film dealing with life in the troubled suburbs of Paris in the late 1990s.

The IGCSE course is excellent preparation for A Level and you will find that the skills you have learnt will give you a strong foundation for success at A Level.

Will I enjoy A Level French?

- Are you looking for an A Level subject which is highly regarded by the most competitive universities?
- Do you need a subject which will complement the Science or Arts subjects which you wish to take for A Level?
- Do you want to be able to communicate effectively with people in French-speaking countries?
- Are you interested in learning more about French culture?
- Do you like discussing current affairs?
- Do you like expressing your ideas and opinions in general?
- Do you want to do a subject which can be combined with many other disciplines at degree level?
- Are you considering a career related to languages or working abroad?
- Are you doing well in French at the moment?
- Do you relish a challenge?

If your answer to all or most of the above questions is 'yes', then French could well be a good choice for you. As for enjoyment, remember the more you put into your work, the more you will get out of the course.

What about literature?

All of the new MFL specifications include the study of literature, which is something we welcome. We feel that literature is an important part of French culture - it is, after all, the language in its purest form. We want our pupils to feel confident about accessing the language and culture in different ways and so we begin by looking at literary extracts towards the end of Lower Sixth. In the second year of the course, we study one of the most important works of 20th Century world literature: *L'Étranger* by Camus. For most people, studying French at A Level is the first time they have encountered literature in another language and it often turns out to be the most rewarding part of the course. Being able to read a novel in another language shows, amongst other things, agility of mind and perseverance, qualities which prepare pupils well for their studies in general.

What materials will I be using?

We use a wide range of authentic sources, written and recorded, central to which will be the course book, *Elan*. You will also use texts taken from the internet as well as watching excerpts from French films. Thorough revision and consolidation of grammar is built into the course. You will be given practice with examination-style questions too. You will have a password for the website Kerboodle (which focuses exclusively on our exam board's topics and key skills) which you can use independently at home or in lessons.

What about spending time in France?

We organise a work experience trip to France; a week in Armentières, near Lille is planned for 2020. Students stay with host families and are fully immersed in the language. During the day, they work in a variety of businesses, such as cafés, bakeries and nursery schools. This is an excellent experience in itself, as well as providing evidence of initiative and resourcefulness for university applications.

How will my work be assessed?

Students beginning French in the Sixth Form in September 2021 will sit the AQA A Level exam in June 2023. Progress will be assessed internally throughout the course. As the classes are small, there are lots of opportunities to practise your language skills, receive help and improve. At the end of the Upper Sixth, you will take three examinations: Paper one will test listening, reading and writing skills, Paper two involves two essays (on the film and text studied in Upper Sixth) and Paper three is an oral test in which you will have the opportunity to discuss a topic of your own choosing, researched independently.

Assistants

Sixth Form students attend regular oral practice sessions in small groups with the French Assistant. This is an excellent opportunity to practise the language with a young native speaker.

