

French

**Exam Board**

AQA

Qualification

GCSE French

Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the Department is to develop students' ability to communicate in French. In addition, we aim to:

- help students to understand the way people from other countries live;
- give students the means to continue learning beyond the classroom;
- improve students' understanding of language;
- enhance the employment possibilities of the students.

Content (Outline of Course)

The type of language studied – French – covers three main themes: Identity and culture, Local, national, international and global areas of interest and Current and future study and employment. These themes and their sub-topics provide students with the tools to develop language and key skills that are required in higher level studies.

Assessment

The French GCSE is divided between the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each of these four skills make up 25% of the final mark and all will be assessed in a terminal examination at the end of the two year course. These examinations will be externally set and marked by AQA.

There are two levels of assessment for all four skills: Foundation Tier (grades 1 to 5) and Higher Tier (grades 4 to 9). Students will be entered for either foundation or higher in all four skills. Entries are carefully considered to ensure the most appropriate level for each student.

Students are prepared for all four areas of the examination and regularly tested in all four skills throughout the course. All assessments are formal, use examination-style questions and begin as early as the end of the first term.

Homework is set on a regular basis and may take the form of written exercises, learning, listening work, speaking practice or a combination of these. It is also monitored through marking and recording of the work completed.

Careers Guidance

Beyond GCSE, students have the opportunity to follow AS/A2-Level French in the Sixth Form. A GCSE in at least one modern foreign language is one of the desired and facilitating subjects for university entry. It also improves employability prospects. UK businesses need people who know languages from basic to native speaker ability to be able to function and compete in a global setting. Many employers, especially some of the biggest employers, prefer language students because, in addition to their linguistic skills, they tend to have better oral and written communication skills. Furthermore, research shows that speaking another language helps to raise a person's potential earnings.