

Course Outline

A Level French builds on your knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. You will gain an insight into the contemporary society and culture of French-speaking countries, including French music, cinema, politics, immigration and cultural heritage.

This course will also develop your language skills and you will have individual French conversation with a teacher or native speaker. During your A Level course, you will study a French text and film, and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

This course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are invaluable to you, any future employer and society.

By the end of the course, you will leave us being able to communicate confidently and imaginatively in a foreign language. You will be in a good position to undertake further, advanced study of French or use it to your advantage in employment.

Who would be a successful student of French?

This course will appeal to students who:

- are enthusiastic about learning a language and learning about other cultures;
- enjoy speaking to native speakers of French in their own language;
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying these by taking part in debates and discussions on a range of topics;
- wish to extend and develop their options for further study at a higher level in a subject which compliments all others and helps lead to most career paths;
- wish to study a subject that is highly regarded by top universities, including Russell Group universities, and employers.

Career Opportunities

The study of French compliments all future career paths and can open doors for you in the future, in whichever industry you decide to go into.

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A modern language is a truly useful ancillary skill for businesses and there is a wide range of opportunities in the workplace for those who can combine any subject or skill with a modern foreign language. Employers are very keen to recruit language graduates in a range of exciting careers such as:

- law
- any business pathway such as accountancy, marketing, finance...
- medicine
- teaching
- journalism and broadcasting
- public sector
- interpreting

- translating
- travel and tourism

Extra-Curricular Activities

In the past these have included trips to France, theatre shows and film days plus university conferences conducted entirely in French. You would also be more than welcome to give back to the school by helping other students in lower years with their language learning and by running a French club.

Course Content

A Level French consists of modules centred on the following topic areas:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends and issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

These will include the study of:

- The changing nature of family in French-speaking countries
- The 'cyber society' and technological advancements
- The place of voluntary work in society
- Positive features of a diverse society
- Those who are marginalised from society
- How criminals are treated
- Cultural heritage
- Contemporary Francophone music
- Cinema
- Politics
- Political engagement among young people and the right to vote
- Demonstrations and strikes
- Immigration

There are 3 exam papers sat at the end of the two-year course:

- Paper 1: Reading, Listening and Writing; worth 50% of total A Level
- Paper 2: Writing (about a French text and film); worth 20% of total A Level
- Paper 3: Speaking (discussion on an individual research project and a stimulus card); worth 30% of total A Level