

Course Content

The course develops and builds on the skills and knowledge learnt at Key Stage 3. The topics covered are:

Identity and Culture - Me, my family and friends; Technology in everyday life; Free time activities; Customs and festivals in target language-speaking countries.

Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest - Home, town, neighbourhood and religion; social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism.

Current and Future Study and Employment - My studies; Life at school/college; Education post 16; Jobs; career choices and ambitions.

Assessment

Exam Board & Certificate

AQA French Linear Course

GCSE French

Students are assessed in the four main skills, each one accounting for 25% of the final grade. They are entered for either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier.

Listening Exam - the paper is divided into Section A and Section B. Questions and answers in Section A are in English and account for 80% of the exam. In Section B, questions and answers are in French and answers are marked on communication rather than precision of language.

Speaking Exam - this takes place in April-May of the second year. It comprises a short role play, a short discussion based on a photo card and finally some general conversation.

Reading Exam - the paper is divided into Sections A, B and C. Questions and answers in Section A are in English. In the shorter Section B, questions and answers are in French. Finally Section C comprises a short translation from French into English.

Writing Exam - there are four questions at Foundation Tier and three at Higher Tier. Both tiers include a short translation into French and a short piece of writing in response to bullet points.



WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

All academically minded students should continue with a Language to GCSE level. Achieving a grade C or above in French will contribute to the additional English Baccalaureate qualification (EBacc). Many universities will favour those applicants who possess this qualification, whilst some may not even consider applicants without a GCSE in language. Why? Because language learning equips the student with a raft of transferable skills, presentational skills, problem solving skills, team working skills, listening skills and good learning strategies. Languages, therefore, make you highly employable. Jobs may require a language for different reasons - because it is integral to the position, because it is an added bonus or because it is an indicator of general ability and outlook. Employers frequently recruit applicants with conversational ability, who may not be word perfect, as they believe they can help break the ice, deepen cultural understanding and open business access to new markets. Simply put, in today's economic climate, a GCSE language is invaluable.