

French at Norbury High School for Girls

Overview

The aim of the French Department is to develop confident, motivated, resilient and independent students of French. We aspire to foster a love for learning languages throughout our students' school years and beyond.

Our programme helps to develop a strong cultural awareness of French-speaking countries for students of all backgrounds and abilities. We supplement classroom learning with clubs, visits abroad and other enriching experiences including a Year 7 French spelling bee. The schemes of work contain engaging material from francophone countries and include film studies and studies of events and festivals across the francophone world.

We help students develop a sound understanding of grammar they can apply in different contexts, e.g. the art of translation, dictation, understanding literary texts and phonics.

Our approach to delivering the curriculum incorporates careful planning, frequent reviews and adapted learning. Material is pitched to a high and challenging standard so that students can feel both supported and proud of their linguistic achievements.

Key Stage 3 French

Year 7

Year 7 students either start French or continue to develop the language as learnt at Key Stage 2 to develop their language further.

Students use the following four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students learn the following topics over the year:

- How to introduce yourself (includes numbers and the alphabet)
- Speaking about family and friends - describing ourselves and others using adjectives
- Simple verb conjugations and how to start forming sentences
- Where you live - vocabulary and descriptions
- What you do at the weekend - hobbies and pastimes

In addition, students learn the following aspects of grammar:

- Indefinite and definite articles
- Present tense of regular and common irregular verbs
- The near future tense
- Adjectives
- Possessive adjectives

Year 8

Year 8 students continue to consolidate the topics covered in year 7 and become more competent language learners. They learn to speak transactionally but also to develop their skills of comprehension, dictation and pronunciation.

Students use the following four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students learn about the following topics over the year:

- Weather and seasons
- Festivals
- Food and shopping
- Clothes and shopping for other items
- Leisure time
- Making arrangements to go out
- My digital life
- Discovering a region of a francophone country and their culture

In addition, students learn the following aspects of grammar:

- Adjective agreement
- The passé composé (the perfect tense)
- Negations
- Introduction to the perfect tense
- Introduction to modal verbs

Year 9

Year 9 starts with a recap of the vocabulary and grammar studied in years 7 and 8 to create a solid foundation for using more complex language and grammar to discuss the following:

Topics

- The world around me
- Future plans
- Music
- Talking about the natural world
- Discovering more about the francophone world

Grammar

- Verbs + an infinitive
- Using the present, perfect, imperfect and near future tenses
- Modal verbs
- Using the conditional tense
- Revision of negations

Key Stage 4 French

Students will sit Edexcel GCSE French at the end of year 11 and will have a speaking exam in April of Year 11. The GCSE course provides students of all abilities with the opportunity to build on the knowledge gained from Key Stage 3. It is designed to help all students develop a passion for languages through culturally engaging content.

Four skills are developed and carry 25% of the final marks towards the GCSE. Students sit either foundation or higher level papers.

The four skills are:

- Speaking
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing

The French exams will also contain dictation and reading out loud in French.

Thematic contexts and subjects

The following thematic contexts and subjects are studied in the context of the relevant francophone countries and communities.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Year 10

Students study subjects related to the GCSE thematic contexts and regularly revise and revisit the topics and grammar from previous years. They also focus on language skills.

Thematic contexts

- Media and Technology
- My personal world
- Studying and my future
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- Travel and tourism

Grammar (this list is not exhaustive)

- Using the present, perfect and imperfect tenses.
- Using the near future, simple future and conditional tenses
- Using comparative and superlative adjectives
- Using modal verbs
- Using direct object pronouns and other pronouns
- Recognising the pluperfect tense.

Skills

- Translation practice and techniques
- Speaking: conversation, photo description and reading French out loud.
- Writing: exam-style questions
- Listening, dictation and comprehension skills using exam questions

Year 11

Students study subjects related to the GCSE thematic contexts and regularly revise and revisit the topics and grammar from previous years. They also focus on language skills.

Thematic contexts

- My personal world
- My neighbourhood- our planet
- Studying and my future

Grammar (this list is not exhaustive)

- Revision and consolidation of Year 10 grammar
- Verbs: pluperfect tense, imperfect and conditional tense
- Using different tenses together: present, past and future
- Understanding the passive voice
- The present participle
- Using si clauses
- Varying vocabulary choices such as using alternatives to “and” and “but”
- Presenting a written argument with varying ideas

Skills

- Translation practice and techniques
- Speaking: conversation, photo description and reading French out loud.
- Writing: exam-style questions
- Listening, dictation and comprehension skills using exam questions