

French at Norbury High

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

Our approach to delivering the curriculum incorporates careful planning, frequent reviews and scaffolded 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 continue to develop the language as learnt at Key Stage 2 or 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
- Adjectives
- Possessive adjectives

Year 8

Year 8 students continue to consolidate the topics covered in year 7 and become more competent language learners.

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 near future 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 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 a speaking test in April. 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 examined equally. All exams are externally assessed and are tiered. Students sit either foundation or higher level papers.

The four skills are:

- Speaking
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing

Five Themes

The following themes are studied in the context of the relevant country and communities where the language is spoken over two years.

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Year 10

Students study two more topics related to the GCSE themes and regularly revise and re-visit the topics and grammar from previous years. They then focus on language skills.

Topics

- Talking about yourself and relationships with others
- Sports and leisure activities
- Talking about family celebrations and celebrations around the francophone world
- Talking about where you live
- Holidays

Grammar

- Using the present, perfect and imperfect tenses.
- Using comparative and superlative adjectives
- Using direct object pronouns
- Recognising the pluperfect tense.

Skills

- Translation practice and techniques
- Speaking: conversation and photo description
- Writing: exam-style questions
- Listening and comprehension skills using exam questions

Year 11

Students study two more topics related to the GCSE themes and regularly revise and re-visit the topics and grammar from previous years. They then focus on language skills.

Topics

- Future aspirations, study and work: the world of work, job applications and future plans
- International and global dimension: healthy lifestyles, sporting events, local and global environmental issues

Grammar

- Verbs: pluperfect tense, imperfect and conditional tense
- Present subjunctive
- Using different tenses together: present, past and future
- 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 and photo description
- Writing: exam-style questions
- Listening and comprehension skills using exam questions