French

Course Summary
Studying French at A Level encompasses cultural study of French cinema and literature with contemporary society to develop your linguistic knowledge. You will study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13. You’ll develop your spoken French to a conversational fluency and have the opportunity to learn more about life in France and French speaking countries.

Why study this subject?
If you have a love of languages or travel and have studied French successfully at GCSE then this is the course for you. It will open doors to university courses and give you the opportunity to study abroad whether you do a pure language course, dual honours or other academic subject at university. Graduates with languages degrees are highly sought after and often have an advantage when it comes to recruitment.

What happens in lessons?
Most of your lessons will take place in our sixth form languages study room. You’ll enjoy more time to practise and perfect your spoken French and accent, to converse and debate with others. You will develop your vocabulary and use it to translate more complex texts into French/English. There will be time to revisit and build on grammar that you studied in Years 10 and 11. You’ll spend time on the computers for listening activities and may have time with French language assistants either by yourself or with a small group of others students to work on spoken fluency and any aspects of grammar you are finding challenging.

Course Assessment
Assessment is either at the end of the first year or at the end of the second year with three papers testing the following skills:
- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Translation into target language.
- Paper 2: Writing consisting of two essays, one on the film studied and another on the set text.
- Paper 3: Speaking, a photo card, independent research project and discussion.

What to do afterwards
An A Level in French is an asset in your portfolio for your application to study many subjects at degree level. Many students choose to combine a language that they have already studied with a new language ab initio such as Italian, Portuguese or Japanese. A dual honours course, combining a language with another subject, is also popular. Your A Level language will enable you to work or study abroad in the future or, if you choose to, even travel after your A Levels!

Reading around the subject
It would be useful to have watched/researched a selection of the films and books below to give you an idea of what you would study for the film/literature part of the course. It will also develop your listening and reading skills and broaden your vocabulary.

- Films: La Haine; Entre les murs; Un long dimanche de fiançailles; L’auberge espagnole; Les 400 coups; Au revoir les enfants
- Books: Molière - Le Tartuffe; Voltaire - Candide; Guy de Maupassant - Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre; Albert Camus - L’étranger; Françoise Sagan - Bonjour tristesse; Claire Etcherelli - Elise ou la vraie vie; Joseph Joffo - Un sac de billes; Faïza Guène - Kif kif de demain; Philippe Grimbert - Un secret; Delphine de Vigan - No et moi

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in French GCSE

Terms and Conditions
- “Learning a language in Year 12 has increased my passion for both language and French culture. It has also helped me understand divisive issues within countries like France which still cause problems to this date.” George

Please discuss with your teacher if you want to pursue AS. The exams are slightly different.

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It’s a good idea to travel to France or French-speaking countries. You may even like to arrange work experience abroad – we can help you with that.