

French

Aims

By the age of 16 (the end of Year 11), students should:

- be able to use French effectively for practical communication;
- have some insight into the culture and civilisation of French-speaking countries, including the Jewish dimension;
- have a sound base in the skills, language and attitude required either for further study, for work, and/or for leisure;
- derive enjoyment, intellectual stimulation and cultural enrichment from a wide variety of language tasks, including extended reading of magazines, newspapers and books, watching television programmes, films, plays, etc.;
- appreciate that, as British Jews, they are European citizens and, as such, have the possibility of building a European dimension into their future careers.



Who studies what and when?

Lessons are conducted, as far as possible, in the foreign language, using authentic materials.

Years 7-9

In Years 7 and 8 pupils have five periods of French in the ten-day cycle and are taught in their tutor groups. From Year 8, pupils are setted according to ability. The textbook used is *Encore Tricolore Nouvelle Edition* (Books 1, 2 and 3). Homework (30-45 minutes depending on the year group) is set once a week. In December, Year 8 pupils are offered the opportunity to undertake, in conjunction with the Geography Department, a study trip to Paris. In Year 9, pupils have two periods in the ten-day cycle. During Year 9 pupils will decide whether to continue with French to GCSE Level or not.

Years 10-11

In Years 10 and 11 students have four periods of French in the ten-day cycle. All groups use the same textbook, *Encore Tricolore Nouvelle Edition* (Books 2, 3 and 4) and sit the AQA GCSE examination. Homework is set once a week, a minimum of one hour on each occasion. In addition, students in Year 11 are able to benefit from extra lunchtime oral sessions, in order to improve their conversational French. They are also encouraged to take out a subscription for a French magazine appropriate to their level.

Extensive use is made of audio and visual equipment, as well as the language laboratory software in the computer suite.

Strasbourg

The highlight of the GCSE course is a five-day educational, cultural and social visit in Year 10 to the French city of Strasbourg. During this visit students stay in orthodox Jewish homes on a full-board basis, thereby discovering the delights of French family life and of kosher cuisine. Among the activities undertaken are a tour of Strasbourg by the canal, a visit to the concentration camp of Natzviller-Struthof, a look at the new European Parliament building and, on a lighter note, an evening of fun at the bowling alley.

Sixth-form French

The A Level syllabus prepares the students for the Edexcel A Level examination, the aims of which are to:

- encourage maximum use of the foreign language by both learners and teachers;
- develop in students a range of practical skills which will enable them to understand and communicate in the written and spoken language for a variety of purposes in the worlds of work and leisure;
- enhance students' awareness of language registers and the circumstances in which they are used.

At A Level students are required to demonstrate their knowledge of contemporary society in one country where French is spoken, covering areas such as the world of work, transport and travel, the media, culture and the arts, literature and food and drink. In addition to their regular timetabled periods, A Level students are expected to attend a one-hour French conversation class each week with the French assistant and, timetable permitting, to participate in the department's community-service scheme by working alongside a teacher in the lower school. Students are also afforded the opportunity of completing a period of work experience at placements in Brussels during the LVI.