



Course Title

Exam Board

French GCSE

Edexcel

Course Description

The French GCSE is a dynamic, highly motivating course which strives to enthuse students and enable them to communicate effectively in the language. The new GCSE course, which began in September 2016, will cover topics within themes including 'Identity and Culture', 'Local area, holiday and travel', 'Future aspirations, study and work' and 'International and global dimension'.

Each topic provides contexts where students learn about France and other French speaking communities, developing awareness and understanding. The course is designed to challenge, enthuse and motivate students but at the same time provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of the language, in all four key skills.

At Birchwood, in Year 9, students will focus on grammar within topics and on building their own, personal grammar reference book. In addition to this, they will have the opportunity to make a film in stages throughout the year in French in an after-school enrichment club run fortnightly. It is a collaborative project with other class members and in association with Routes into Languages, at Anglia Ruskin University. It is of huge benefit to students in terms of confidence building and language proficiency.

From then on, students will continue to work towards their GCSE qualification, using French in all four skills effectively in a variety of situations. The examined skills are in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Students enjoy working independently, in pairs or small groups.

In October of Year 9, there is an opportunity to take part in a study visit to Le Touquet and there maybe other opportunities to attend evening events such as the French Film Festival in Year 11. These trips add to the enrichment of our programme.

Type of Assessment

Students will be assessed in all four skills. There are final examinations (from May in Year 11) in all skills. Each skill makes up 25% of the qualification:

- Listening – 25%
- Reading – 25%
- Speaking – 25%
- Writing – 25%

There are two tiers of entry: Foundation (Grades 1 - 5) **or** Higher (Grades 4 – 9).

The target language is required throughout. There will be Year 10 mock exams and Year 11 mock exams which include opportunities to experience a full Speaking exam. Students will have regular opportunities to practise all skills throughout the three year course.

Special Requirements

Students who are taking courses leading to this qualification at Key Stage 4 should normally have followed the corresponding subject at Key Stage 3.

Career and Progression Opportunities

Without doubt a GCSE French prepares students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. Many universities require that candidates have at least a GCSE in a language to be able to access their courses. Many job opportunities are enhanced with a GCSE in French, combining very well with other subjects and is part of the EBACC qualification.

Link to Syllabus

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>

We use the textbook 'Studio' and subscribe to Active Learn which complements this course.