



Modern Foreign Languages



Students in Year 8 continue their studies of French building on what they have covered in Year 7. All learners are embarking on a very important learning journey as they work towards the more challenging GCSE French qualification at the end of Year 11.

THE COURSE

This course builds on their studies of French in Year 7. Year 8 classwork and homework develops listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. The new GCSE assesses all four skills evenly (25% each) We have built in competences from the new GCSE into the Key Stage 3 assessments to prepare our learners as best as possible for what lies ahead. Preparation for and performance in all assessments is tracked thoroughly. Students are expected to prioritise accordingly and manage their time effectively in order to make the most of their language learning opportunity. Full focus and application is vital right from the start to ensure that the Key Stage 4 course is no more challenging than it already is.

During Year 8, students become more competent users of the language and will express themselves in conversation and writing more accurately and with more detail using more complex language and vocabulary. They will continue to improve their understanding of French by listening to a variety of recorded material such as songs and poems and reading a range of texts.

The Year 8 course will focus its learning objectives through the topics of Personal Information, Leisure and Food and Drink. All students must sit winter and summer listening and reading assessments in line with the new GCSE. Writing is assessed via mini writing exams throughout the year and a full writing exam in the summer term. Speaking is assessed in class and there is one formal speaking assessment towards the end of the year.

Year 8 French course outline (2016-2017)

(Main focus on vocabulary building and listening/reading skills with an introduction to the new terminal written and spoken exam)

- Personal Information, Family and Friends
- Leisure
- Food and Drink

Year 8 students have access to French listening resources via the Learning Platform which include a variety of practice questions on all relevant topics.

We endeavour to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to learn about the cultural aspects of French life. We aim to make cultural links at appropriate times throughout the course. In fact, we have dedicated one full half term to project based learning where group work skills can be developed and students can focus on a topic of choice.

Assessment of learning is done through regular tests during the year. These cover skills of listening and reading, speaking and writing. Students will have regular vocabulary tests. These will form part of the on-going assessment of student progress and therefore it is essential that time and efforts are invested.

If students have not already purchased a bilingual dictionary it is necessary to do so since, when used properly and with lots of practice, it is an important tool to help improve the quality of work. Excellent effort in school and at home is crucial in order for students to achieve to their maximum potential.

YEAR 8 FRENCH ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

YEAR 8	Topic	Style of Assessment
Half term 1	PERSONAL INFO/FAMILY/FRIENDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini V• Personal Info V/G
Half term 2	PERSONAL INFO/FAMILY/FRIENDS LEISURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini V• Winter L• Winter R• Picture W
Half term 3	LEISURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini V• Leisure V/G• Paragraph W
Half term 4	FOOD AND DRINK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini V• Translation W
Half term 5	FOOD AND DRINK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini V• Food & Drink V/G
Half term 6	PROJECT/FILM STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini V• Summer L• Summer R• Summer W• Year 8 S

REVISION ADVICE and USEFUL INFORMATION

What **students** should be focusing on:

Listening and reading:

Learning as much topic-related vocabulary as possible. Vocabulary building needs to be done at regular intervals and not just when learning is set for homework for a test. Students are expected to revise lesson content each evening after a Languages lesson has been delivered.

Practise finding and using synonyms.

Use reading and listening materials to practise exam questions. Their language teacher will be happy to help with any difficulties they encounter in completing the questions.

Speaking and Writing:

Ensure all class notes are up to date and thorough to be used to support revision for exams.

Examine the criteria sheets so they know what they need to do for the higher grades.

Make sure they include a range of tenses.

How **you** can help your child:

Test them at regular intervals. This does not mean that you should be spending hours learning it with them!

Encourage them to use the internet to practise vocabulary/grammar they have learnt:

www.linguascope.com
www.atantot.co.uk
www.languagesonline.co.uk

Encourage them to use the strategies on how to answer questions they have learnt in class. This will greatly increase their chances of a higher grade.

Encourage them to practise their exam prep and test them as they manage small chunks of it.

Encourage students to visit the LEARNING PLATFORM to advance listening skills using the practice activities.