

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

FRENCH (Edexcel)

Ms S Montet

A competence in languages is nowadays a very desirable skill. A good knowledge of French would undoubtedly enhance your employment prospects. Throughout the course you will also learn transferable skills such as essay-writing techniques and debating skills.

Aims of the course:

During the course the student should expect to:

- Gain a good understanding of the spoken and written forms of the foreign language
- Communicate confidently, clearly and imaginatively in the foreign language
- Develop critical insights into the contemporary society, the cultural, political and historical backgrounds of French speaking countries.
- Develop knowledge of the literature and cinema of the countries where the foreign language is spoken

Outline of course content:

You will study topics related to the following areas:

- Day-to-day matters (food / health / tourism)
- Society (relationships / social issues / leisure and the arts)
- The working world (education / employment / information technology)
- The environment and citizenship (pollution / politics / campaigning organisations)
- The international context (traditions / religions / the European Union)

as well as studying French cinema and literature.

The benefits of the course:

You will:

- Further your knowledge of the French language and culture
- Improve your communication skills in the foreign language
- Develop key skills such as the use of information technology and methodology for research

Trips and cultural outings:

You will be encouraged to visit French-speaking countries as often as possible. Help and advice will also be given on possible courses or work experiences. Educational visits relevant to the subject will be organised (viewings of French plays and French films, attending talks and conferences, visits to the French Institute).

Who should apply:

If you are considering studying AS/A level French, you must have gained A* or A in the French GCSE. You must have a sound knowledge of French grammar and a varied lexis. It is important to have good organisational skills and a positive approach towards self-study and research work. You must show an interest in contemporary social issues and curiosity towards France and French-speaking countries.

Material used on the course:

The textbook “Au Point” is used in class and you will also have a grammar book. The school has subscribed to various French magazines such as “Les clés de l’actualité” and “Phosphore”, so you will frequently be using authentic material. Of course, our students have access to the internet to supplement the material used in class, and we also have a French assistant who meets our students for one-to-one weekly lessons.

Structure of AS Course:

- The first three topic areas outlined in the section “Outline of Course content” will be studied in depth.
- Specific grammatical points will be explained and practised during lessons and students will also develop their oral and listening skills in class.
- In addition, students will work with our French assistant to prepare for their oral examination.

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Structure of A2 Course:

- The remaining topic areas will be studied in class.
- The study of French literature and French cinema will also be an important component of the year's work
- Students will also have a lesson with our French assistant to prepare for the speaking examination.

Assessment:

Students' knowledge of / in the foreign language will be assessed and they will sit examinations both years.

Examinations:

AS Examinations:

Unit 1	Listening and Writing	30%
Unit 2	Reading and Writing	40%
Unit 3	Prepared Oral Topic	30%

A2 Examinations:

Unit 4	Oral Discussions of Issues or Interpretation	30%
Unit 5	Topics and texts (cinema / literature)	30%
Unit 6	Listening and Writing	10%
	Reading and Writing	10%
	Writing	20%

Written coursework is an option for our A2 candidates. The decision is taken by the teachers depending on students' abilities and interests.

In the same way, for the A2 speaking examination, teachers and students decide whether to prepare for a discussion or practise the skill of interpretation.

Teachers:

All our teachers are well qualified and experienced French teachers, all native-speakers. Students will also work with our French language assistant