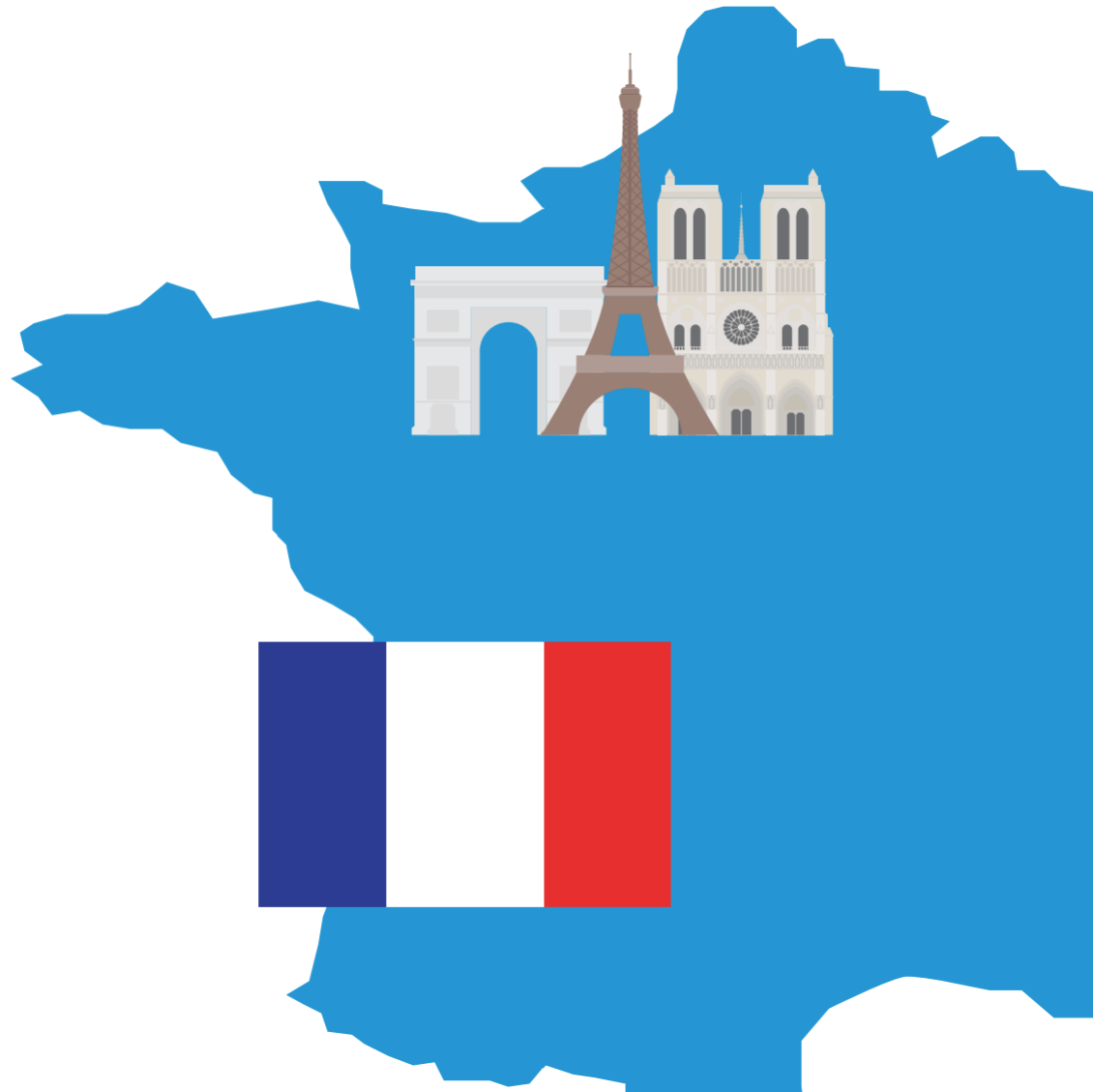


Blessed Hugh Faringdon School

French A Level

Transition work



Staffing

Mrs Hargreaves: Head of Languages
e-mail: e.hargreaves@hughfaringdon.org.uk

Mr Le Paih: Language teacher (joining us in September 2024)

Subject content

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree. The specification has been designed to be studied over two years.

The approach is a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. You will also study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations.

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and your language skills. You will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French. The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that for example *Life for the marginalised* could be studied in conjunction with the book *No et moi* whilst aspects of Politics and immigration are reflected in the book *Kiffe kiffe demain* and in the film *Entre les murs*.

2 years course- A level examinations

At the end of Year 13 you will sit:

Paper 1	Listening, Reading and Writing	2 hours 30 minutes	100 marks	50%
Paper 2	Writing	2 hours	80 marks	20%
Paper 3	Speaking	23 minutes	60 marks	30%

Course overview

The following topics areas are studied during the 2 Year A level course:

KEY STAGE 5		
	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 12	Theme 1 : Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends Unit 1: family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different types of modern family - Recent changes in relationships and marriage - Concerns and problems of three generations
	Theme 1 : Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends Unit 2: cyber society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How important technology is in everyday life - What the world of cybernauts is like - What the dangers of e-society are - What the new technological in Africa is like
	Theme 1 : Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends Unit 3: voluntary work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why people want to become volunteers - How charity organisations help those in need - How volunteering benefit those who help
	Theme 2 : Artistic culture in The French speaking world Unit 4: The importance of heritage in France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How heritage is a cultural and physical phenomenon - How UNESCO protects sites in France/francophone countries - How architecture and gastronomy play an important role in France's heritage
	Theme 2 : Artistic culture in The French speaking world Unit 5: Contemporary francophone music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to protect contemporary French music - How diverse French music is today - What music is popular amongst young people - Which music et festivals are emerging in Africa
	Theme 2 : Artistic culture in The French speaking world Unit 6: Literature and film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When cinema was invented and its place in France - What the greatest developments in French cinema in the twentieth century are - How popular cinema is in France
	Independent research project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing research skills - Demonstrating the ability to initiate and conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest relating to the countries or communities where French is spoken - Identifying a key question or subject of interest - Selecting relevant information in French from a range of authentic sources including the internet - Using information to illustrate knowledge and understanding of the research subject

	Topic	Key Themes
YEAR 13	<p>Theme 3 : Aspect of French speaking society : current issues</p> <p><i>Unit 7: Positive aspects of a diverse society</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How French society has become multicultural and how immigrants and their descendants live in France - How multiculturalism affects society - Canadian society and France's influence on the French-speaking world
	<p>Theme 3 : Aspect of French speaking society : current issues</p> <p><i>Unit 8: Discrimination in French society</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How marginalisation affects different sectors of the population - What the legal position is of marginalised people and what help is given to them - How other react to marginalised groups
	<p>Theme 3 : Aspect of French speaking society : current issues</p> <p><i>Unit 9: Prison system in France</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the judicial and prison systems work in France - What people's different attitude are towards criminality - What is done in terms of crime prevention and reintegration in the community
	<p>Theme 4: Aspect of political life in the French speaking world</p> <p><i>Unit 10: Involvement of young people in France</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people and politics - The right to vote - The future of the European Union
	<p>Theme 4: Aspect of political life in the French speaking world</p> <p><i>Unit 11: Trade Unions in France</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How important trade unions are in France - Why there are strikes and demonstrations in France and how effective they are - What people's attitudes are towards the political tensions caused by strikes
	<p>Theme 4: Aspect of political life in the French speaking world</p> <p><i>Unit 12: Politic and immigration</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How political solutions to the issue of integration of immigrants have evolved in France - How French political parties deal with immigration - France's political involvement with immigrants
	<p>Littérature : Kiffe kiffe demain</p> <p>Film : L'auberge espagnole</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critically analysing the work - Evaluating the form and techniques used in the work - Presenting and justifying viewpoints - Developing logical arguments to persuade - Relating the work to key concepts, issues and the social context - Writing a critical response

Transition work for French A level students

1) French grammar booklet



Have a go at completing the exercises in the grammar booklet below, checking your answers using the answer booklet as you go along. There are lots of websites that will explain grammar and there are some links to explore throughout the booklet. If you are really struggling with a particular grammar point and need some help, please get in touch with Mrs Hargreaves.

[Microsoft Word - A-Level_TransitionWork_2020_French_Grammar_Booklet.docx \(nhgs.co.uk\)](#)

French Grammar Booklet – Answer Sheet

[Microsoft Word - A Level Transition Grammar booklet_ANSWER BOOKLET.docx \(nhgs.co.uk\)](#)

Some good explanations of grammar can also be found here:

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html#gsc.tab=0>

[French Easy Learning Grammar | Collins Education \(collinsdictionary.com\)](#)

2) Culture Booklet



[A-Level_TransitionWork_2020_French_Culture_Booklet.pdf \(nhgs.co.uk\)](#)

Using the Culture Booklet above research your favourite:

- a) youtubeur
- b) artiste et chanson
- c) station de radio

Write a couple of sentences for each in French explaining why you like them and bring this along to your first French lesson in September.

3) Additional non-compulsory work



Keep going practising grammar / vocabulary exercises using Language Perfect and other websites such as:

[languages online](#)

[Online French Courses - Memrise: The Easiest way to Speak French](#)

[Duolingo - The world's best way to learn French](#)

- Watch a French film or a series on Netflix

Find listening to French a challenge? Enhance your French listening skills by doing some of the things below:

[Intermediate French: Understanding spoken French | OpenLearn - Open University](#)

- Listen to the news in slow French on a weekly basis: with transcripts:
[News in Slow French - French Podcast](#)
- 10 minute a day listening? Journal en français facile (Newspaper in easy French) It isn't very easy, but it is a 10 minute news report each evening that you can just listen to when you like- We are not expecting you to understand everything.
[Journal en français facile \(rfi.fr\)](#)
- France info en direct (France news live on the radio):
[Ecouter l'info radio en direct \(francetvinfo.fr\)](#)
- As above, but live on TV
[Direct TV de franceinfo : Toute l'info en direct, vidéos, replay \(francetvinfo.fr\)](#)
- Listen to French radio stations regularly: please see the list in the culture booklet.
- Enjoy fairy tales? Explore the following links to listen to fairy tales in French with English subtitles and translations:
[Coincé au pays des fées | Stuck in Fairyland in French | @FrenchFairyTales \(youtube.com\)](#)