



GCSE French

Head of Faculty: Mrs S Casey

Email: S.Casey@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Why study GCSE French?

The GCSE French course aims to develop students' ability to understand spoken and written language in a range of contexts. It will enable students to communicate in French using a range of vocabulary and develop their understanding of French grammar. Students will improve their key skills, e.g. communication, working with others, problem-solving and improve their own learning and confidence. By the end of the course, students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of everyday situations required for a visit to a French speaking country. Students will have a sound base for further study, work and leisure.

What does the course involve?

- Students will study all of the following themes on which the assessments will be based:
- Theme 1: Identity and Culture (family, relationships, freetime activities and technology)
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (home, town, environment, travel and tourism)
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Students will:

- Listen to recordings of French speakers
- Understand and cope with a wider range of vocabulary, including some unfamiliar language
- Understand and discuss issues and opinions
- Be able to understand authentic French materials such as hotel brochures, travel information, e-mails and short literary based texts
- Write descriptions, accounts and narratives
- Develop translation skills

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed in the four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing. These are tiered as Foundation (Grades 1-5) and Higher (Grades 4-9).

Students must take all 4 skills at the same tier (either Foundation OR Higher) and each component is worth 25% of the final GCSE grade.

- **Paper 1 Listening Exam** - 35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 minutes (Higher)
- **Paper 2 Speaking Assessment** - 7-9 minutes (Foundation) or 10-12 minutes (Higher)
- **Paper 3 Reading Exam** - 45 minutes (Foundation) or 60 minutes (Higher)
- **Paper 4 Writing Exam** - 60 minutes (Foundation) or 75 minutes (Higher)

What are my progression routes?

A foreign language can give you a skill for life which could be relevant in any number of professions. An increasing number of Universities are expecting students to have a GCSE in languages to follow degree courses. In order to give you the maximum opportunities Post-16 or in employment, you are advised that knowledge of a modern foreign language is very highly regarded.