

# ST MARY'S COLLEGE



## INTRODUCTION

### Why study French?

"It is estimated that 1 in 5 UK companies is losing business because of language barriers."

- French is spoken in Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Québec and numerous countries in Africa and the Caribbean, as well as in France.
- French is usually the second foreign language learned in continental Europe and is one of the two official languages of the European Union.
- The French are our nearest neighbours and we have close historical ties with them.
- France is one of Britain's most important trading partners.
- All employers value language skills.

## AS LEVEL

### *Content*

The AS course lasts one year and is made up of two units:

- Listening, Writing and Reading
- Speaking

### *How is the course delivered?*

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| • Modern topic-based text books                | • Interactive grammar and vocabulary activities          |
| • Authentic audio cassettes                    | • Role play  |
| • TV broadcasts                                | • Discussion   |
| • Language Lab exercises                       | • French as the language of the classroom                |
| • Complete revision of basic grammar           | • French Assistant for individual and group oral lessons |
| • Study skills: vocabulary learning strategies | • Independent research and study                         |
| • Magazines, newspaper articles                | • Optional exchange visit                                |
| • Short stories, plays, songs                  | • Posters, brochures, advertisements                     |
| • Video film                                   | • Internet articles                                      |

## ***Entry requirements***

Five GCSE passes at grade C or above, including French, at Higher Level.

## ***What skills and interests do I need?***

There is quite a jump from GCSE to AS level so you need to be able to memorise and retain lots of vocabulary. Grammar is presented within the context of contemporary French society, as are the four skills, so you will need to be interested in modern day France and current affairs. Primarily you need to be prepared to work hard, and regularly.



## ***How does it build upon studies in Key Stage 4?***

The syllabus develops the 4 familiar skills of GCSE, namely, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, but presents them within the framework of contemporary issues, eg the family and relationships, sport and leisure, diet and health, music and art, education and employment. Grammar covered at KS4 is revised and extended.

## ***How is the course assessed?***

The 2 units will be assessed by an oral examination, a listening test and a further written paper and a reading paper. All examination papers are taken in June. Candidates will be able to re-sit each module once.

## **A2 LEVEL**

### ***Content***

The A2 course follows on from the AS, developing creative writing, translating and debating skills. As with all A2 courses, A2 French is more demanding than the AS. It consists of the following two units:

- Speaking
- Listening, Reading and Writing (comprehension and translation), Essay

## ***How is the course delivered?***

The teaching methods will be similar to those employed with the AS, but students will be expected to take more responsibility for their own learning. Extended reading and individual research will be key elements of the course. Essay writing skills form part of the A2 course, as does the language of debate and debating skills.

## ***Entry requirements***

A pass in AS French.

## ***How is the course assessed?***

The two units will be assessed by one oral examination, a listening test, one written paper and a reading paper. The examinations will be taken in June. The marks will be combined with the marks achieved for AS and lead to a full A-level qualification. Candidates will be able to re-sit each unit once.

### ***Progression routes***

French AS/A Level combines well with any other subject as AS/A Level, can be studied at university in its own right or in combination with a wide range of other subjects, particularly other languages, Business, British and International Law, Media Studies and any Science. The study of any foreign language develops many transferable skills such as organising, assessing and interpreting both written and spoken information and communicating effectively. It can lead to interesting careers in most sectors: commerce, central government, sales, engineering, European IT contact centres, financial services, marketing, media, public relations, tourism, translating, interpreting, publishing and teaching.

### ***Further Information***

***For further information please contact Brigitte Colleau.***

**NOTES:**

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