

Little Heath School Sixth Form

Year 12 Induction Evening for Parents 2016

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| Subject | French |

Welcome to the department

We are delighted to welcome you to A Level French and we hope this will be a really enjoyable year for your child.

There are 7 lessons across the fortnight, in which we study aspects relating to two key themes (aspects of French speaking society: the changing nature of family; online society; voluntary work and artistic culture in the French speaking world: a culture proud of its heritage; francophone music; cinema) as well as developing our knowledge and use of the French language.

This is a linear course, although in exceptional circumstances students may sit the AS exam at the end of Year 12.

**A level French is assessed by examination in the summer of Year 13.**

**Paper 1 - (50% of marks for A level) - Listening, Reading & Writing.** This exam includes a range of tasks to test listening and reading skills as well a translation task. This exam is marked out of 100.

**Paper 2 – (20% of marks for A level) – Writing.** The main focus is the study of a film and a book. Candidates will write two essays, one about the film they have studied and one about the book on a choice of two questions for each. This exam is marked out of 80.

**Paper 3 - (30% of marks for A level) - Speaking.** This exam consists of a discussion of one of the themes we have studied and a presentation and discussion of an individual research project. This exam is marked out of 60.

**AS French is assessed by examination in the summer of Year 12:**

**Paper 1 - (45% of marks for AS)- Listening, Reading & Writing.** This exam includes a range of tasks to test listening and reading skills as well a translation task. This exam is marked out of 90.

**Paper 2 – (25% of marks for AS) – Writing.** This paper contains a translation into French. Its main focus is the study of a film. Candidates will write an extended answer about the film they have studied on a choice of two questions. This exam is marked out of 50.

**Paper 3 - (30% of marks for AS) - Speaking.** This exam consists of a discussion of two of the themes we have studied – with the discussion based on a stimulus card. This exam is marked out of 60.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us at any time should you have any questions or queries.

**Mrs Leach**: **sleach@littleheath.org.uk**

**Mr Linz:** **jlinz@littleheath.org.uk**

Key to success at A Level

There are a number of ways to ensure success at A Level. Organisation, of course is crucial.

**Learning vocabulary** and practising areas of grammar are key components of success and as such it is vital to spend enough time independently each week consolidating the key language points covered. Students will be provided with access to the website Vocab Express for regular learning homework.

**Reading around the topic** area from a French perspective and keeping abreast of news and current issues in French will enhance a student’s appreciation of topic areas and their enjoyment.

**Reading in French** more generally is an effective and enjoyable way to develop vocabulary. Ask your teacher for suggestions and check the list on the Sixth form website.

**Listening to the radio** in the background helps the ear to get “tuned in”! The same applies for the television. As well as getting “tuned in” to the French, television helps you absorb the French culture.

Some useful websites include

[**www.languagesonline.org.uk**](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) **- practice**

[**www.lemonde.fr**](http://www.lemonde.fr) **- news**

[**www.apprendre.tv**](http://www.apprendre.tv) **– news and exercises**

[**www.insee.fr**](http://www.insee.fr) **– French statistics office for information about any French topic**

Students should use the **P**ersonal **L**earning **C**hecklists (please see Sixth Form website) to help them chart their own progress and areas which need focus. Regular learning conversations will take place each half term with Mrs Leach and Mr Linz In order to help you with this.

What parents can do to help

Help with learning and testing vocabulary is always beneficial to students of French.

Talking with students about the topic areas and allowing them to discuss their ideas can also be very helpful. Students need to have well thought through ideas on a range of issues and points of view.

Important deadlines

*There will be a mock exam at some stage during the year.*

Essential equipment

An advanced level bilingual dictionary.