

## MFL - French

### Key Stage 3

Students in Year 7 build on the skills they have acquired in Primary School.

In Key Stage 3, we extend our students' knowledge and language learning skills so that they are equipped for today's job market where knowing another language improves students' employability following the National Curriculum for French. Students may continue with French as an option at KS4 and be entered for their GCSE in Year 11.

- We practice oral skills in pairs and in groups.
- We play games which encourage communication.
- We use websites to practice our skills.
- We improve our spelling skills through Word Power Express®.
- We learn how to write basic sentences in Year 7 and expand our writing skills in Years 8 & 9, introducing different tenses (past & basic future).
- We learn how to read & understand paragraphs in French by making connections (identifying key words/cognates).

Key Stage 3 students will be covering the following topics:

#### Year 7:

- Module 1: Let's go! (Meeting people, talking about age, date of birth, what's in my bag & colours)
- Module 2: Family & friends (Talking about brothers & sisters, identifying family members, pets & describing yourself & others)
- Module 3: Where I live (Talking about where you live, my house, my bedroom & introduction to the time)
- Module 4: Let's go to town! (Talking about places around the town, directions & expressing opinions)
- Module 5: My day (Talking about morning routines, school subjects/time table, giving opinions & talking about what you do after school)

#### Year 8:

- Module 1: Family & home (Describe your family in detail, Talking about jobs people do, where people live and describing the weather)
- Module 2: Spare time (Talking about what you did last night/last week-end & what you watched on TV – **use of the past tense**)
- Module 3: Going out (Talking about clothes & going shopping)
- Module 4: Eating & drinking (talking about food & drink including French cuisine, going to a market & a restaurant)
- Module 5: Travels & holidays (Talking about countries and languages & past holidays)

#### Year 9:

- Module 1: Are you interested? (Discussing what's on television & talking about films)
- Module 2: The Future (future plans & talking about future careers & why languages are important?)

- Module 3: Health (Talking about illnesses & describing injuries, talking about healthy living)
- Module 4: Once upon a time ... (Talking about what you used to do using the perfect tense)
- Module 5: Let's go! (making holiday plans & travel/hotel arrangements)

## **Key Stage 4**

At Key Stage 4 students build on their knowledge gained in Years 7, 8 and 9. The course develops the language skills needed to communicate and is therefore very useful for students considering employment within the European Employment Sector.

## **Course Content**

The topics covered include:

- Out and about: Visitor information, basic weather, local amenities, accommodation, public transport and directions;
- Customer service and transactions: Cafés and restaurants, shops, dealing with problems;
- Personal information: General interests, leisure activities, family, friends and lifestyle (healthy eating and exercise);
- Future plans, education and work: Basic language of the internet, simple job advertisements, simple job applications and CV, School and College work and work experience; and
- A Flexible Topic which can be designed by this School to suit the needs and interests of the students.

Students continue to develop their language skills, which are each tested at GCSE: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The course encourages students to practise using language creatively and to acquire a level of competence that will help them in real life situations. It also promotes cultural awareness, where appropriate grammar is taught which may help with their understanding of English.

## **Syllabus Details**

The examination board is EDEXCEL and the qualification is GCSE French.

## **Assessment: Examination**

There are two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher for each of the four skills. Listening and Reading are each worth 20% and Speaking and Writing are each worth 30% of the final mark. Where appropriate students will be encouraged to take one or more of the examinations at Higher level.

Students must complete two examinations:

Foundation Listening, which lasts 30 minutes or Higher Listening, which lasts 40 minutes and Foundation Reading which lasts 35 minutes or Higher Reading which lasts 50 minutes.

The decision on which level to take for each skill will be based on the students' individual ability in order to achieve the highest possible grade.

## **Assessment: Controlled Assessments**

Students will be given time to prepare for written and speaking tasks which will then be undertaken under controlled (examination) conditions with their class teacher on a modular basis, thus relieving some of the pressure during the final examinations period. Students may be asked to produce a number of pieces, the best of which will then be marked in the School and moderated by Edexcel.

## **SMSC**

The MFL department at Futures Community College actively promote British Values (the key values of mutual respect, diversity and plurality) through the curriculum and our teaching methods. There is a strong emphasis on promoting cultural values and traditions of other countries and global citizenship. By gaining an appreciation of the countries where the language the students are studying is spoken, they are encouraged to reflect on other cultures and ways of life and embrace socio-cultural and economic differences and contexts. This ensures that they remain open to the world around them and have a better grasp of the links and connections between countries and societies. This in turn, emphasises the need for tolerance and justice, and through their studies, our students come to value the rule of law and democratic systems that European countries and countries further afield enjoy despite the varied customs, festivals and national characteristics that makes every society so unique.

## **Homework**

Homework is an essential part of ensuring success. Where specific tasks are set these will be marked regularly and advice is given on how to make further improvements. When specific tasks are not set students are expected to spend the equivalent amount of time learning vocabulary (especially numbers 1-100 and the French alphabet) or making revision notes.

## **Education Extra, Support and Trips**

As a department we are committed to instilling in students a sense of value and importance of learning a modern foreign language. We aim to widen students' cultural awareness and stimulate their interest in travel and the pleasure of communicating in a foreign language. We aim to achieve this by using authentic materials such as satellite television, IT/CD Roms, audio-visual materials and exposure to native speakers. We also organise a residential trip to a French Chateau which includes a tour of Paris and a visit to a French market and Department store.

## **How Parents Can Help**

Parents/carers can play an important part in encouraging students in the following ways:

- Taking an active interest in your child's progress;
- Provide a pocket bilingual dictionary to help with homework;
- Monitor the completion of homework;
- Provide a study area at home where your child can concentrate;
- Encourage (and help with where possible) the regular learning of vocabulary - hints & tips on memory techniques will be provided throughout the course);
- Encourage your child to make revision notes or use a revision guide available through the School; and
- Inform the School straight away if you have any concerns.

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## **Securing Success**

The department will support students as much as possible through revision classes and time with one of our native speakers. Help and guidance will be given on an ongoing basis to assist students prepare for the listening and reading exams, and with their written and speaking tasks. Where there is cause for concern with a student's progress the parents/ carers will be contacted so that we can work together to improve the situation.

### **Staff Contact:**

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