

French Department

French is highly regarded as an academic Modern Foreign Language by the students and staff at Judd. The department currently comprises three native speakers, who have very high expectations of students and foster an environment where all are expected to thrive to achieve their best.

Teachers are supported to develop their practice and expertise and to take an active and collaborative role in the development of not only delivering the curriculum but also of taking on initiatives and extra-curricular activities.

At KS3, students follow the Dynamo 1 and Dynamo 2 courses, and at GCSE students follow the Studio AQA GCSE higher course from Year 9 to Year 11. A wide range of materials, software and applications are also competently used to support the thematic approach to language learning and enrich the students and staff's experience. There are currently four classes in Year 9 and two classes in Year 10 and Year 11.

French is well established at A Level and enjoys a high take-up compared to other similar schools in the national arena. At A Level, students follow the Kerboodle and Dynamic Learning coursebooks, they also study a film and a book as part of their cultural topics. Classes are shared by two teachers.

The curriculum is progressive and cumulative and assessments are carried out termly. Grammatical and vocabulary knowledge and understanding, retrieval practice and phonics, pronunciation and fluency are at the heart of our day to day teaching strategies and practices.

All three French classrooms are equipped with a projector and computer. One of the classrooms is a computer room allocated especially for Sixth Forms lessons and shared with the German department. The department shares a Languages office with the German and Latin Departments.

In 2017, an exchange programme was set up with a school based in Bordeaux, it is hoped that when Covid-19 restrictions pass this will be able to run again. There is also the possibility of a Year 9 trip to France, as part of activities week.

The French department conducts lessons mainly in the target language and students should expect to use French as their principal means of communication. The department emphasises a balanced approach to the acquisition of the skills necessary to support the four key skills areas. Students are also expected to be independently motivated and fully prepared for all lessons and to have a mature attitude towards the syllabus, both preparing the key tasks as set and also reading outside and around the subject to support their language development.

The teaching approach at Judd fosters and focuses on a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society.

The successful candidate will be expected to show excellent subject and specification knowledge, have good communication skills, participate in extracurricular activities and contribute to curriculum development to support the school development plan.

In return, the successful candidate will be part of a friendly, supportive and enthusiastic team of French teachers.