



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

French Department

Staffing

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| Mrs T Richards | Head of Department |
| Miss J Woolley | Teacher of French |
| Mrs Piepdie | Teacher of French |

French is taught at KS3 and one language is compulsory at KS4.
A Level is taught collaboratively with other schools in the Foundation.

Examinations

Students follow the AQA specifications for GCSE and A Level French.

Please see details below.

Examination Results

It is compulsory for students to study at least one language at KS4, however we do have a number of dual linguists each year. French is a very popular choice at GCSE, with this year over 60% of pupils choosing to continue with French in KS4. Results are very good with very many pupils achieving grades 7-9 in recent years.

Outcomes at A level are excellent in French - we have had students reading French at Cambridge University and many others choosing to continue their studies in French alongside a range of other disciplines including Economics, Linguistics and International Studies at top class Universities.

Trips and Enrichment

The French department offer a vibrant extra-curricular programme and these enrichment activities are seen as an essential part of our curriculum and the successful candidate would be expected to contribute to the running of these enrichment opportunities.

Key Stage 3

In the Autumn Term, we take a group of pupils from Year 9 to Lille where we visit the Christmas Market and also cross the border to Belgium for some dry slope skiing! Our Year 12 and 13 students of French run a book club and we are currently reading *Mystère au Louvre* by Theresa Marrama. We organise events with Business Language Champions and this year a team of Year 9 students planned and organised a music festival in French. Onatti Productions visit us every year where they perform a French play for our Year 8 students which really helps bring the French language to life for them.

Key Stage 4

In the Summer term, we take a group of pupils from Year 10 to Nice and Monaco where we experience eating out in restaurants and enjoy boat trips along the bay. In addition, we offer a variety of enrichment opportunities which vary from year to year. This year, a group of Year 11 students were involved in Outreach projects with local primary schools and delivered a series of French language sessions. In addition, we welcome speakers from industry who promote the importance of language skills in the global workplace. The Department also works with the Cambridge Language Collective and pupils have the opportunity to enter competitions and write essays on French films they have enjoyed or books or

poetry that they have read. Our students also enjoy French cinema and we make the most of our local theatre in Birmingham when the French Film Festival takes place.

Key Stage 5

Each year we participate in the Anthea Bell Translation Competition organised by the University of Oxford where pupils translate a prose into English. Through Business Language Champions, we take part in debating competitions and this year our team won the event where they debated the motion to reducing the voting age in France to 16. In addition, we also take our Sixth Formers to Paris every year where our students are able to immerse themselves in the culture and history of the capital.

Timetable

We operate a fortnightly timetable and lessons are 50 minutes long. At KS3 we have three lessons a fortnight, (four in Year 7) five at KS4 and eleven at KS5.

Picture of Y10 pupils listening to our guest speaker.



Accommodation

The French department has 2 classrooms which are well equipped with projectors, interactive whiteboards, DVD players and visualisers. We have an in-house curriculum which focuses on the EPI approach to learning languages. We have a fantastic collection of French reading books in the library for all key stages as well as subscriptions to excellent digital learning platforms. As well as facilities in the French department, we also have access to five bookable ICT suites each with 32 computers.

Courses Taught

KS3

During Key Stage 3, pupils will learn to give justified opinions on a range of topics as well as handling key regular and irregular verbs in 3 time-frames. They will develop their breadth and depth of vocabulary whilst working on the language learning skills of reading, translating into French and English, listening, speaking and writing.

Year 7:

Personal Information
My family
Where I live
Free Time

Year 8:

Food
Daily Routine
Holiday Plans

Year 9:

Local area
Global issues
Relationships

GCSE

The GCSE curriculum builds on the work and skills covered in KS3 and includes familiar topics such as what you do in your leisure time, what you think of your home town and where you like to go on holiday. In addition, more mature topics are covered including how technology improves our lives and future career aspirations.

A Level

4 themes are studied over the 2 years:

Social issues and trends
Artistic culture
Current issues in France and French speaking countries
Political Life

In addition, we study *La Haine* by M. Kassovitz and the literary work *Un Sac de billes* by J. Joffo

Further Information

As a department, our vision is:

- To foster a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for the study of French and French speaking countries. We aim to bring the French language to life through interesting and challenging lessons and develop curious linguists who have a passion for learning more about France and the French speaking world.
- To encourage pupils to pursue their interest in the French language **beyond** the classroom and the specification through enrichment and the extra-curricular opportunities that we as a department provide: trips and visits, wider reading of French language books, engaging with French music and television programmes, we are not just interested in the exam!
- To provide a firm foundation for the future. French is an academically rigorous subject and promotes a wide range of skills as well as informed global citizenship.

T Richards
Head of French
May 2025