



AS/A2 FRENCH

Head of Department – Mrs V. Bailey

EXAMINATION BOARD

OCR

SYLLABUS TITLE

FRENCH

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirement is a grade B at GCSE, but we expect the majority of students to have a grade A.

It is obviously also an advantage if you can bring to the course an interest in all aspects of French speaking countries and their culture.

THE COURSE CONTENT

AS Level courses in Foreign Languages are designed to follow on naturally from GCSE, which means equal importance continues to be given to the four skill areas of *Listening, Speaking, Reading* and *Writing*.

In addition to your timetabled lessons there will be weekly sessions with the foreign language assistant. All lessons will normally be conducted in French, as this is the best way to develop your skills for the AS and A2 Level exam.

You will be expected to take an interest in the current affairs of the country you are studying, read newspapers and magazines available in the school, and try to listen regularly to French.

The Modern Languages department has its own Resource Room with excellent facilities and study materials for private research including access to the Internet, satellite television, video and audio cassettes. This will enable students to explore and develop a deeper understanding of contemporary society and cultural background.

You will be encouraged to visit France at least once during the two-year course. This could be via our school study visit to Paris or a work placement in Brittany for Sixth Formers, staff will be pleased to advise you of opportunities. Visits to plays, films and language conferences will also be arranged.

ASSESSMENT

Two units are examined at the end of Year 12 and two units at the end of Year 13.

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED CAREERS

An A Level or a degree in Modern Language(s), as in all arts subjects, is evidence of ability and broadening of horizons. It is valuable in its own right and employers appreciate a language qualification even when the jobs they seek to fill require no special language ability. The skills you acquire as a linguist are obvious: to communicate effectively; to listen; to evaluate; to explain; to analyse linguistically; and to understand a foreign country and its people.

An increasing number of universities have abandoned the traditional concentration on literature in favour of stronger emphasis on economics, marketing and business studies. Courses are also available in which science or engineering is taken with a language.

Linguists can find employment opportunities in broadcasting, purchasing, commerce and industry, international organisations, interpreting, translating, teaching and the Civil Service. You can improve your career prospects with a modern language in such fields as law, accountancy, journalism and insurance. Competence in one foreign language can be a stepping stone to others. After A Level French you might go on to Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Slavonic or Scandinavian languages.