

Year 9 Curriculum Intent for French

At Dixons Cottingley we develop students to lead successful and happy lives and make a positive contribution to their community. Our curriculum in each year is designed to provide experiences, opportunities, knowledge and skills that enrich and challenge our students. We understand that the curriculum is key to determining the life chances and choices for our students and therefore we will not compromise on providing the very best. We achieve this in French through the below:

By the end of Year 9 students at Dixons Cottingley studying French will be exposed to the following:

- The overview of the GCSE French course: topics, skills, components
- The importance of learning languages and an appreciation of different countries, cultures and communities
- Opportunities to explore the benefits of languages in different areas of employment and leisure
- A recapitulation of the phonetical make-up of the French language
- The present, past, future and conditional tenses with their grammatical structures in the different persons, alongside an exposure to more complex sentence constructions using different tenses and structures such as negatives, reflexive pronouns and verbs
- A gradual increase in the level of linguistic and cognitive demand promoting an independent, creative and more complex use of the language
- A variety of authentic French texts (in both written and oral formats)
- Aspects of the culture and festivals of France and La Francophonie (French speaking countries)

By the end of Year 9 students at Dixons Cottingley studying French will be taught the following knowledge and skills:

- Students will continue to develop the ability to pronounce words correctly in French with increasing confidence, fluency and excellent pronunciation as they continue to practise and apply French phonics.
- Students will develop the ability to communicate orally in French, with fluency and spontaneity, in order to be able to hold a general conversation (2-3 minutes in length) in French as well as be able to describe unseen photographs and take part in an unseen role play.
- Students will develop the skills of writing in French, communicating effectively and creatively for a variety of purposes such as:
 - describing a photo accurately in French using a variety of sentence types and grammar structures
 - writing 40 - 90 words to respond to 4 bullet points in accurate French in three different tenses, using simple, compound and complex sentences/ complex grammar structures
 - writing 150 words to respond to 2 bullet points in accurate French in six and more different tenses, using simple, compound and more complex sentences and complex grammar structures to explain advantages and disadvantages as well as describe events.
- Students will continue to develop the skills of reading in French and be able to read out loud familiar and unfamiliar words/ phrases as well as simple, compound and complex sentences and complex structures with confidence, fluency & excellent pronunciation.
- Students will be able to read, recognise and understand cognates, near cognates and pre-learnt words in short phrases, simple, compound and complex sentences.
- Students will be able to use knowledge of grammar & the context of a written or spoken text to work out the meaning of new language.
- Students will be able to understand main points and details from a written or spoken passage / literacy texts and authentic materials containing familiar and unfamiliar language in a range of familiar contexts.
- Students will be able to answer multiple choice questions, true/false questions and open questions in French based on a written or spoken passage in French.
- Students will develop the ability to re-use new vocab, phrases and grammatical structures and tenses learnt through reading in their speaking & writing.
- Students will learn how to transcribe accurately simple, compound and complex sentences in a variety of tenses with opinions.
- Students will develop their listening skills and be able to recognise and understand key sounds, words, opinions in simple, compound and complex sentences with a variety of tenses in spoken passages.
- Students will be able to understand the main points and details from a spoken passage containing familiar and unfamiliar language in familiar contexts.
- Students will continue to develop the skills of translating accurately simple, compound and complex sentences in a variety of tenses with opinions.
- Students will continue to practise their dictionary skills, so that they can independently find new words and communicate the messages they want to. In addition, students will learn how to look for words within words.
- Students will understand and practise a variety of techniques to learn and retain new vocabulary, short phrases and longer more complex sentences.
- Students will also learn about the culture of France and French speaking countries. In Year 9 students will be able to:
 - recall activities that French people do on summer / winter holiday.



- understand and describe the main festivals of New Year's Day, Mothers' Day, Labour Day.
- name countries forming La Francophonie.
- name a variety of French companies.

In order to truly appreciate the subject and create deep schema, French has been sequenced with the following rationale:

- At the beginning of year 9 we will address some misconceptions students have in respect to language learning, reinforcing the importance of speaking languages into today's global society.
- Year 9 will start with a focus on revising key content and grammar taught in years 7 and 8, before presenting new language and grammar that builds on the foundation of core vocabulary and grammar outlined in Key Stage 3.
- In the first term, students will begin the topic of holidays, with a focus on local, national, international and global areas of interest. Students will develop skills in describing photographs and answering spontaneous questions. As the scheme develops, students will be able to book a train ticket, plan a trip to Disneyland Paris as well as hire ski clothes and make complaints.
- In the second term, students will learn about festivals in La Francophonie. We will explore the different festivals in France as well as around the world and compare different cultures and customs to our own. Students will have the opportunity reflect on what they consider the most important festivals and celebrations and further develop their writing, reading, speaking and listening skills.
- The scheme of learning is sequenced to allow students to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the internet (revising key content from year 7), before introducing career options and discussing plans and wishes for current and future study and employment. The theme of employment will involve exploring jobs with languages and jobs abroad. As the scheme develops, students will be able to write a CV in French and take part in a French Interview.
- In the final term, students will consider their own identity and culture and consider family role-models. By the end of this unit all students will be able to write between 60 and 150 words about a memorable birthday event with family or friends, consolidating key language taught throughout the year and in KS3.
- During the course of Year 9, frequent reference will be made to La Francophonie and to different cultural practices and customs. Students will have regular formative assessments to assess their progress and competency in all key skills.

The French curriculum at Cottingley has been influenced by:

- The latest research developed by NCELP and Dixons MFL Hub.
- The calendar of French customs & festivals.
- The AQA GCSE specification.

Our French curriculum ensures that social disadvantage is addressed through:

- Disadvantaged students will follow the same curricular pathway as it is important that they are provided with access to the same body of French knowledge and cultural capital. They will be supported through quality first teaching and intervention and support as required. The use of French regalia, authentic texts and resources will help their engagement and progress.
- SEN students follow the same curricular pathway as it is important that they are provided with access to the same body of French knowledge. This is supported through clearly differentiated teaching which will include a multi-sensory approach.

Our belief is that homework is used for deliberate practice of what has been taught in lessons. All students have the opportunity to deepen their linguistic and cultural knowledge by accessing a range of online resources through the French GCSE Padlet site. We also use retrieval practice and spaced revision to support all students with committing knowledge to long term memory. This will be supported in year 9 by a common framework of learning and understanding, which includes weekly vocabulary tests. Commitment to memory of key knowledge will primarily be supported through the interspacing of knowledge, with regular retrieval practice and interleaving previously taught content into new content throughout the course.

Opportunities to build an understanding of social, moral and ethical issues are developed alongside links to the wider world, including careers, through:

1. Equipping students with systematic and powerful knowledge about the French language and culture so that they are able to understand other cultures and value diversity.
2. Developing confident individuals who can increasingly express themselves positively and confidently in a foreign language.
3. Enabling students to recognise the importance of languages in order to help guide and develop citizens who make a positive contribution to an inclusive, multi-lingual and multi-cultural society. Students will be frequently introduced to possible jobs with languages.
4. Giving students the opportunity to be reflective about their own home spoken languages and how they can use their natural linguistic skills in a new foreign language.



5. Presenting the opportunity to understand and appreciate the different French customs and festivals as well as the range of cultural influences that have shaped France and La Francophonie.
6. Exploring similarities and differences between French and British society and values.
7. Supporting the learning in other curricular areas such as English, Geography, Business, Careers and Drama. Geography is supported through the understanding different flags of countries across the world as well as further developing knowledge about French speaking countries across the world. Major French companies are discussed in the jobs topic and students develop a CV in French and take part in a job interview, supporting their understanding of the process of employment and careers. French also supports learning in Drama when students are acting in role plays when speaking in French. English is supported throughout the scheme as words the same and similar to English are regularly discussed. In addition to this, KS2 grammar knowledge is continually revisited and applied when learning French to learn key grammar terms and structures.

A true love of French is developed by teaching beyond the domain of the GCSE specification. Examples of such content:

- Describing a nightmare / dream holiday and planning a trip to Disneyland Paris.
- Reading for pleasure in French.
- Following personal interests in French e.g. football, music, cooking, film.
- Following famous French people on social media.

Further Information can be found in:

- Long Term Plans
- Knowledge Navigators
- NCELP
- AQA GCSE Specification