



Hoe Valley Sixth Form

Chères Élèves,

Félicitations d'avoir choisi A level French! One third of a billion people worldwide speak French as a first language, and you are now well on your way to joining them. French is the prime language of global culture, of diplomacy, and taking it all the way to A-Level turns it into a key gateway language to open whole new possibilities. France itself is the cradle of modern democracy and philosophy, with an immense seam of literature to explore, and that is why French is the only working language other than English of NATO and the UN. This course will create unimaginable opportunities, and we ask you to engage in these tasks to prepare for Year 12 in September.

Preparation

Below are some tasks that will help to introduce you to knowledge required for the start of the course or to consolidate key GCSE level material.

This is what you should do over the summer to activate prior knowledge essential for A-Level German and enable you to make a confident start.

- 1) Mon Été 2024
Make a blog/vlog/travelog about your summer. Don't make it too schooly: it can be a collection of photos with captions (en français, bien sûr!), a narrated video, your tiktok style super cool video, whatever you want. I want opinions, reasons and detail! Par exemple: <https://youtube.com/shorts/6ldHYCnKbt4> (This isn't long enough but I made it in five minutes flat on adobe express and put it onto an unlisted youtube link, but capcut and then tiktok would have been even better. Up to you!) Be creative!!!
- 2) WATCH THE OLYMPICS - IDEALLY IN FRENCH! Don't skip the opening ceremony: it will be full of cultural treats!
- 3) FOLLOW THE FRENCH ELECTION AND THE LIKELY AFTERMATH. The rise of the far right is a theme we will cover extensively - who are the Rassemblement Nationale (RN)???
Try to watch/read at least 3 news stories each week. Make a note of any key vocabulary but do not feel you need to understand every single word: letting language wash over you is a key technique for A-Level success!
<https://www.bfmtv.com/> Not super high level TV news, vaguely comparable with Sky News.
<https://www.1jour1actu.com/> Kids news - vaguely like Newsround, but without the host.
<https://www.lefigaro.fr/> Very highbrow, not everything is paywalled. A bit like the Telegraph.
<https://www.ouest-france.fr/> More tabloid, regional(ish) paper with more accessible language.
- 4) This year we will be studying La Haine. Watch it all the way through!
Other cool French films worth a watch are: Amélie, Un Sac de Billes, Au Revoir les Enfants, Chocolat, Angel-A, Nikita, Le Grand Bleu... French film is amazing: find a niche and explore it.
- 5) Finally, to consolidate your language, please work your way through some key grammar. You know the technique by now: focus on areas where you need practice!
<https://languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zp838p3>
- 6) Just because it's A-Level doesn't make Duolingo a bad idea. I'm in the Diamond League for Hungarian: can you beat my XP...?

Reading

Below is some essential reading material or some titles that will help you to read around your subject and develop a deeper understanding of the subject, a crucial skill for success in the Sixth Form.

Reading parallel texts (French with English) at this stage is excellent preparation for the literature content of the course in year 13. Here are some suggested titles:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/French-short-stories-Nouvelles-Francaises/dp/0140265430>

As above, you should also broaden your reading from fiction to include non-fiction and news articles, so that you are keeping up to date with current affairs in French-speaking countries.

Organisation

Below are tasks to help you to be organised with your work when you start in September. You will be completing a huge amount of work and to be successful you must keep on top of everything!

Ensure you have a lever arch file and file dividers along with an A4 note pad.

When you start the course you will be provided dividers, which you will use to help organise your work and to ensure you don't miss any lesson content, independent work or homework.

Start to keep a log of interesting articles you read - title, author and source, and why you found it interesting.

Ich freue mich auf unsere Stunden zusammen! Bis bald!