



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM GUIDE

FRENCH

AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

At least grade 7 in GCSE French.



"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."

Frank Smith

Do you enjoy working out the intricacies of the French language? Does discovering French culture through films like 'Jean de Florette' and 'La Haine' appeal to you? Does launching yourself into debates and discussions about topical issues such as political issues and cultural diversity interest you? These are all reasons for continuing with French at A level.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding, through the language of study, of aspects of the society, culture and history of the country or countries where French is spoken, studying one theme at AS and two themes at A level from each of the following areas of interest:

- social issues and phenomena
- politics, current affairs and history
- In addition, at AS students will study 1 book or film
- A2 students will study another book or film (2 books or 1 book and 1 film in total)
- In addition, students will also be carrying out an Individual Research project

Studying French at A level develops the four skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) taught at GCSE and aims to give you the ability to use the language well in real contexts. Over the two year course there will be a huge focus on oral competence not only in class but also by attending weekly sessions with the French assistant. You will be encouraged to develop your reading skills by reading authentic texts from the Internet and French magazines. Grammar will also play an integral part of the course and you will be required to complete

numerous grammar drills and exercises from grammar textbooks and websites. Listening skills are always perceived as more challenging by students therefore a real emphasis will be drawn to the latter. RFI (Radio France International) will be your first choice radio station on a smart phone! Watching French films and documentaries on TV5 should be part of your weekly routine too.

As a department we also strongly recommend that you undertake a work placement in the summer of Year 12. There will be visits to the Broadway cinema to enjoy the latest releases of French films. Students in Years 12 and 13 will be given the opportunity to mentor/tutor younger girls who need a bit of extra help.

Here are some of the comments made by Year 12 students after their first year studying French:

"Improves essay skills, especially helpful if you are taking other essay subjects."

"Lessons are fun; there is a variety of activities and learning styles."

"Studying a foreign language broadens your English vocabulary and your analytical skills."

In a multicultural global society, choosing French is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of university courses and career possibilities.

French complements a whole variety of subjects at university or can be studied purely. You may need French for all sorts of career destinations: doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, politicians, historians, geographers and teachers, just to name a few.

For more information about courses and possible future careers, see the Language Firefly pages on Courses and jobs.

*Click here to watch the course introductory video
from Head of French, Miss Carole Bourachot*

In order to join us in the Sixth Form, we require an average of grade 6 across eight GCSE subjects, including English and Mathematics. See individual subjects for any specific requirements for study at A Level.

For detailed course information on all of the A Level subjects please visit the AQA, Edexcel or OCR websites.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the admissions process, please call 0115 935 4444 or email admissions@not.gdst.net



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