

A passport may gain you entry to another country but it is knowledge of its language that really lets you in. Knowledge of a foreign language gives you insight into another culture; it broadens your horizons; makes travelling to other countries easier and more enjoyable. There is a real sense of achievement in being able to communicate in another language. French is the language of our closest European neighbour. It is a major world language spoken in over 40 countries. A knowledge of French is an excellent springboard for learning related languages such as Italian and Spanish. With the recent opening of Ebbsfleet International Station and the high speed rail link to France, a basic command of French has become all the more valuable. We follow the Edexcel GCSE course and it is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

What skills are needed for this course?

A positive attitude towards language learning

A “good ear”, to listen for detail and the ability to accurately imitate sounds

The confidence to speak aloud in front of others

A logical mind and the ability to apply rules, and write and spell French accurately

An open mind and the acceptance that English is just one of many world languages

The course aims to:

- Build on the work of KS3
- Provide the student with opportunities to increase their knowledge of the structure and vocabulary of French
- Develop self confidence and the ability to communicate with others
- Offer insights into the cultures of French speaking countries
- Provide a sound basis for further study

Coursework:

There is no coursework

Examination:

All four language skills are assessed:

Listening (25%), Reading (25%), Writing (25%), Speaking (25%)

For all skills there is an examination at the end of the course at either Foundation or Higher Tier.

Progression Pathways to further and higher education:

AS and A level courses in French are available through the Gravesham Partnership

Many universities offer language degree courses or combine the study of a language with other subjects

Some universities and careers have made a language qualification an entry requirement

Career Opportunities:

A qualification in a foreign language is a valuable asset for most careers, in particular police and armed forces, hotel and tourism, public relations, secretarial work, retail sector and teaching

If you are thinking of becoming a primary school teacher, you will be expected to be able to teach a language

Catering in shops, restaurants, hotels, on board ships, planes and abroad