



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: French Year 11

The Thomas Mills High School and Sixth Form French curriculum builds upon the knowledge, skills and understanding developed throughout Key Stage 3 and Year 10, preparing pupils for success in their GCSE examinations and future language study. Through the continued study of carefully sequenced topic-specific vocabulary linked to themes such as identity and culture, local, national and global issues, and current and future study and employment, pupils consolidate the substantive knowledge needed to communicate accurately, confidently and independently in French. They continue to develop disciplinary knowledge through the key language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, supported by explicit teaching of phonics, pronunciation, translation skills and grammar. As pupils approach their final examinations, they consolidate and apply their knowledge through targeted revision, retrieval practice and increasingly independent use of the language across a range of contexts.

The curriculum places a strong emphasis on the secure application of phonics, vocabulary and grammar, enabling pupils to communicate with increasing fluency, accuracy and spontaneity. Pupils refine their ability to understand and interpret a wide range of spoken and written French, manipulate language across different contexts and time frames, and express and justify opinions in depth. They develop the confidence and resilience needed to respond successfully to GCSE-style tasks while communicating with increasing independence and authenticity. The curriculum encourages pupils to develop confidence in their language abilities, communicate independently for authentic purposes, and recognise the value of languages in the wider world.

Through discussion, role-play, translation and practical language application, pupils deepen their understanding of the cultures and communities of the French-speaking world. They are encouraged to make connections between French and English, explore different perspectives, and develop the confidence to engage with unfamiliar language and ideas. This provides a strong linguistic and cultural foundation for further study at A Level and beyond.

The following assessment objectives (AO) underpin pupils' progress towards success at GCSE French – AQA 8652:



AO1 – Understanding and responding to spoken language

- Understand spoken French.
- Respond appropriately to spoken French in both speaking and writing.

AO2 – Understanding and responding to written language

- Understand written French.
- Respond appropriately to written French in both speaking and writing.

AO3 – Grammar and vocabulary

- Demonstrate understanding and accurate application of the prescribed grammar and vocabulary.

Year 11			
Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Name of topics Identity and relationships with others Healthy living and lifestyle Education and work Free time activities	Knowledge: This term revisits the major GCSE topics: family, free time, technology, music, customs and festivals, town and region, travel and tourism, school and jobs, celebrity culture and global issues. Pupils review key vocabulary, grammar structures, and cultural content. Foundation pupils practise the 50-word and 90-word writing tasks, while higher pupils tackle 90- and 150-word essays. Pupils also complete regular translation exercises to develop written accuracy. Skills: Pupils will refine their ability to produce structured written responses, express and justify opinions, and use a wide variety of tenses. Weekly grammar revision and topic-based speaking tasks will strengthen fluency and build exam confidence. Pupils work towards mastering	BBC Bitesize GCSE French – Offers grammar guides, vocabulary lists, videos, and practice questions tailored to GCSE content: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z9dwxb Seneca Learning – Free interactive courses specifically aligned to GCSE French content with topic-based quizzes: https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ Languages Online – GCSE-level grammar and vocabulary exercises to reinforce classroom learning: https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/ Quizlet – Searchable flashcards and games for revising French vocabulary by theme or module: https://quizlet.com/en-gb



	Customs, festivals and celebration Celebrity culture	both Foundation and Higher writing formats, depending on their level.	5. Oak National Academy – KS4 French – Structured lessons with videos and interactive tasks to support independent GCSE revision: Free KS4 French teaching resources Oak National Academy 6. Language Nut – an online platform the school subscribes to that has vocabulary games, exam style questions, grammar activities and phonics explanations. All content on Language Nut is matched to the AQA GCSE content. www.languagenut.com
Assessments		Four standardised assessments (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) will test pupils' readiness for GCSE requirements. These will simulate exam conditions and provide targeted feedback on performance.	
2	Name of topics Travel and tourism Places of interest Media and technology The environment Where people live	Knowledge: This term intensifies revision through the use of past papers across all four skill areas. Pupils will revisit all themes and continue their practice of 90- and 150-word essays, translation tasks, and oral questions. Higher-level grammar such as the subjunctive, pronouns, and conditional ('if' sentences) is explicitly taught and embedded. Skills: Pupils will develop the ability to handle more complex structures in speaking and writing and focus on refining their responses under timed conditions. Translation exercises and guided writing tasks build linguistic precision. Oral preparation is integrated throughout, ensuring familiarity with potential speaking questions from all themes.	1. BBC Bitesize GCSE French – Offers grammar guides, vocabulary lists, videos, and practice questions tailored to GCSE content: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z9dwxnb 2. Seneca Learning – Free interactive courses specifically aligned to GCSE French content with topic-based quizzes: https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ 3. Languages Online – GCSE-level grammar and vocabulary exercises to reinforce classroom learning: https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/ 4. Quizlet – Searchable flashcards and games for revising French vocabulary by theme or module: https://quizlet.com/en-gb



			5. Oak National Academy – KS4 French – Structured lessons with videos and interactive tasks to support independent GCSE revision: Free KS4 French teaching resources Oak National Academy 6. Language Nut – an online platform the school subscribes to that has vocabulary games, exam style questions, grammar activities and phonics explanations. All content on Language Nut is matched to the AQA GCSE content. www.languagenut.com
Assessments		Listening, reading, speaking, and writing assessments mirror GCSE exam formats and are designed to measure progress in exam readiness. Pupils receive personalised feedback to address areas for improvement.	
3	Name of topics All GCSE topics	Knowledge and skills: During the final term, pupils engage in intensive revision. They complete past papers, work through exemplar writing tasks, and continue translation drills. The focus is on application and refinement of all skills across reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Oral practice by theme ensures pupils are fully prepared for the speaking exam.	1. BBC Bitesize GCSE French – Offers grammar guides, vocabulary lists, videos, and practice questions tailored to GCSE content: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspe/cs/z9dwxnb 2. Seneca Learning – Free interactive courses specifically aligned to GCSE French content with topic-based quizzes: https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ 3. Languages Online – GCSE-level grammar and vocabulary exercises to reinforce classroom learning: https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/



			4. Quizlet – Searchable flashcards and games for revising French vocabulary by theme or module: https://quizlet.com/en-gb 5. Oak National Academy – KS4 French – Structured lessons with videos and interactive tasks to support independent GCSE revision: Free KS4 French teaching resources Oak National Academy 6. Language Nut – an online platform the school subscribes to that has vocabulary games, exam style questions, grammar activities and phonics explanations. All content on Language Nut is matched to the AQA GCSE content. www.languagenut.com
Assessment		There are no new formal standardised assessments in this term, as the focus is on final exam preparation and mastery through teacher-led feedback and practice.	