



The Thomas Mills High School and Sixth Form French curriculum marks the beginning of GCSE study and aims to equip students with the linguistic knowledge, cultural understanding and communication skills required for success at Key Stage 4 and beyond. Through the study of carefully sequenced topic-specific vocabulary linked to themes such as identity and relationships, free time, home, school and future aspirations, pupils develop the substantive knowledge needed to communicate effectively and confidently in French. They also 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.

The curriculum places a strong emphasis on secure foundations in phonics, vocabulary and grammar, enabling pupils to build upon prior learning and communicate with increasing accuracy and confidence. Pupils learn to understand and interpret increasingly complex spoken and written French, apply a range of grammatical structures and time frames accurately, express and justify opinions, and communicate with increasing spontaneity and independence. The curriculum encourages students to develop a positive attitude towards language learning, recognise the importance of languages in the wider world, and communicate independently for authentic purposes on topics that are meaningful and relevant to them.

Through discussion, role-play, translation and practical language application, pupils broaden their horizons and 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 GCSE, 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



Thomas Mills

High School & Sixth Form

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: French Year 9

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



Year 9

Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Name of topics Family Relationships Friendships Marriage Food preferences Health problems and addictions Lifestyle choices and habits Recent activities to stay healthy	Knowledge: Pupils will explore themes including family life, friendships, marriage, food preferences, health problems, addictions, and lifestyle choices. They will learn how to express detailed personal information, share views on relationships and health, and discuss ways to stay fit and healthy. Key grammar includes the present, near future and perfect tenses, reflexive verbs, adverbs, negatives, object pronouns, and comparative adjectives. Skills: By practising speaking and writing about personal and social issues, pupils will refine their ability to ask and respond to questions, express opinions, and use a range of tenses. Lessons will develop fluency, vocabulary range, and grammatical accuracy while encouraging thoughtful discussion on real-life topics	1. BBC Bitesize French – Offers interactive lessons, quizzes, and videos to reinforce key vocabulary and grammar concepts. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty 2. Duolingo – A fun and engaging app that helps students practice vocabulary and sentence structures through gamified exercises. https://www.duolingo.com/ 3. Languages Online – Provides interactive grammar and vocabulary exercises tailored to different proficiency levels. https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/ 4. Quizlet – A flashcard-based tool where students can practice key terms and test themselves with various learning modes. https://quizlet.com/ 5. Oak National Academy - French Year 9 – A collection of structured lessons designed to reinforce key topics in French. It includes videos, quizzes, and interactive exercises to support independent learning. Free KS3 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.languagehut.com
Assessments		There will be one assessment for each skill: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. These will assess pupils' ability to communicate personal views, describe relationships and habits, and use complex structures effectively.	
2	Name of topics School Future plans Jobs Hobbies and sports Leisure activities in the past TV, cinema and music Making plans for leisure activities	Knowledge: This term covers school life, career plans, hobbies, leisure activities, and media. Pupils will describe school routines, subjects, and compare educational systems. They will also talk about future jobs, dreams, and earnings. In leisure contexts, they will discuss past and future plans and sports. Grammar includes modal verbs, negatives, comparatives and superlatives, the perfect and imperfect tenses, and reflexive verbs. Skills: Pupils will strengthen their ability to express detailed opinions, compare ideas, and describe past and future activities using a wide range of vocabulary and structures. They will develop greater confidence when discussing abstract and practical topics, in both written and spoken forms.	BBC Bitesize French – Offers interactive lessons, quizzes, and videos to reinforce key vocabulary and grammar concepts. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty Duolingo – A fun and engaging app that helps students practice vocabulary and sentence structures through gamified exercises. https://www.duolingo.com/ Languages Online – Provides interactive grammar and vocabulary exercises tailored to different proficiency levels. https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/ Quizlet – A flashcard-based tool where students can practice key terms and test themselves with various learning modes. https://quizlet.com/ Oak National Academy - French Year 9 – A collection of structured lessons designed to reinforce key topics in French.



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Assessments		There will be standardised assessments in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. These will focus on pupils' understanding of key vocabulary, grammatical precision, and ability to express themselves across various tenses and contexts.	
3	Name of topics Customs and festivals	Knowledge: In the final term, pupils explore cultural customs, festivals, and celebrations in Francophone countries. They will describe past and future festivals, talk about birthdays and special days, and plan trips to events. Grammar includes irregular present and future tenses, question formation, subject-verb inversion, object pronouns, irregular plural nouns, and relative clauses. Skills: This unit enhances pupils' ability to discuss cultural practices with depth and insight. They will develop fluency in narrating events, making plans, and comparing traditions. Pupils will also revise all major	1. BBC Bitesize French – Offers interactive lessons, quizzes, and videos to reinforce key vocabulary and grammar concepts. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty 2. Duolingo – A fun and engaging app that helps students practice vocabulary and sentence structures through gamified exercises. https://www.duolingo.com/ 3. Languages Online – Provides interactive grammar and vocabulary exercises tailored to different proficiency levels. https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/ 4. Quizlet – A flashcard-based tool where students can practice key terms and test



		grammar points and tenses, consolidating their knowledge in preparation for GCSE study.	themselves with various learning modes. https://quizlet.com/ 5. Oak National Academy - French Year 9 – A collection of structured lessons designed to reinforce key topics in French. It includes videos, quizzes, and interactive exercises to support independent learning. Free KS3 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	Four assessments (listening, reading, speaking, writing) will evaluate pupils' cultural awareness, language application, and ability to integrate vocabulary and grammar accurately in different contexts.		