

Options evening text for the website

GCSE French

GCSE French is a great subject which builds on the skills you have already covered in years seven, eight and nine.

AQA GCSE French is a perfect stepping-stone for continuing with or starting a new language at A' Level, or alongside a future degree course – for example business with French – at university.

GCSE French is loved by employers, colleges and 6th forms alike – a good grade in GCSE French shows that you have superb communication skills: that you can listen effectively and express yourself clearly in complex situations; a vital skill for modern business.

Seen as a highly academic subject, having GCSE French on your CV demonstrates that you are not afraid to take on more challenging subjects, which is perfect for anyone considering further study at A' Level at Thamesview School.

In year ten we expand on topics you will already be familiar with – family & friends, technology, holidays for example – and build your confidence with spoken French. In year eleven we tackle higher concepts such as the environment, poverty and homelessness.

Of course, grammar and vocabulary are vital elements of language learning and you will be expected to work independently on these skills throughout the course.

Throughout the course, your teachers will support you to help you gain the highest possible grades. In term one, we focus on writing – the writing paper requires you to produce a written response to bullet points: 90 and 150 words. Your translation skills will also be put to the test in the writing paper – but you will be familiar with this, having completed similar tasks throughout years eight and nine.

The reading and listening exams hold no surprises – you answer questions based on your understanding of written or spoken French.

You will have numerous opportunities to practice your speaking skills – both in the classroom and in mock exams – so you are fully prepared by the time you reach year eleven. In the speaking exam, you will play your part in a pre-prepared role-play, then describe a picture card; the third element of the speaking exam is a conversation between you and your class teacher based on some of the topics you have been learning throughout your time at Thamesview.

Each of the four exams is worth 25% of your final GCSE French grade.

If you have any further questions regarding the French GCSE, please ask any member of the language team: Mr Martel (e.martel@thamesview.kent.sch.uk), Mr Finneran, Mr Jackson, Miss Addy or Miss Lopez.

Cambridge National in iMedia (ICT)

The Cambridge National in iMedia – ICT on your options sheet – is a vocational course equivalent to a GCSE. That means that the qualification you receive will be a Cambridge National at either Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction Star grade, and that a large proportion of the work is practical.

During the course you will study four units of work. Three of these units are practical and assessed through a portfolio of work. The final unit is a written exam.

Creating Digital Graphics is a compulsory, practical unit. Here, we will investigate the purposes, properties and applications of digital graphics.

Then we plan and design a graphic in response to a client brief, similar to how a real-world design team would work.

In LO3 we create the graphic, ensuring that we do not breach copyright laws. Finally, you evaluate your graphic for fitness for purpose and suggest improvements and developments.

The two optional units of work follow a very similar pattern, but instead of creating a digital graphic we might produce a digital animation, a multimedia kiosk, a website, a video or a digital sound.

Finally the exam unit will be taken twice in year eleven, with the best mark contributing to your final grade. This unit is based around pre-production skills – the techniques you will learn during the practical units; for example: mindmaps, moodboards, storyboards, visualisation diagrams and scripts.

The Cambridge National in iMedia can lead on to further study with the Cambridge Technical in IT or Digital Media, or AS and A' Levels in computer science, as well as being a great stepping-stone to apprenticeships or careers in the digital media, publishing and technology sectors.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr Martel:
e.martel@thamesview.kent.sch.uk