
FRENCH

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RATIONALE

French is the first or second language of more than 40 countries and its influence is considerable in European, African, North and South American, and Pacific Ocean spheres of the world as well as in South-East Asia.

French is spoken by some 300 million people and if one has studied French, the Italian and Spanish languages are easily accessible. French is second only to English as an international language and the artistic, scientific, culinary, and literary aspects of French culture have had an acknowledged influence on other cultures.

French sentence structure (word order) is virtually the same as English, and given that a large percentage of French and English vocabulary has similar origins (Vulgar Latin, classical Latin, medieval French and English), students can reach very high levels of fluency while still at school.

The study of French also provides opportunities for the development of transferable key competencies. In the course of their studies, both individually and in groups, students will be involved in the communication of ideas, information, opinions, arguments and conclusions, in a variety of formats and for a variety of audiences. They will collect, analyse, organise and evaluate the quality and validity of information gained from a variety of sources, and presented in a range of forms and genres. The course will allow the development of both deductive and inductive skills and promote other dimensions of learning such as comparison and classification. In French, students will plan and organise activities, both within and outside the school context. As part of their learning and classroom experiences, students will have opportunities to use and apply a range of technologies, particularly those relating to the use of computers.

COURSE CONTENT

Students study the language and culture of France by focussing upon specific topics in familiar settings designed to stimulate use of the language for realistic purposes, such as introducing oneself and others, buying tickets, making simple purchases discussing birthdays and weather and seasons. French cultural traditions are studied through song and film; topics such as school life, leisure and sporting interests, hobbies, pets, television and eating are covered. Students perform communicative tasks, such as asking for information, within the framework of the particular topic being covered in class. By the end of Year 10, students have acquired sufficient knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure to deal with most everyday situations encountered by a tourist in a French-speaking locality.

Due to the selection of units, both year 9 Minor and year 9 Major students will be able to continue with their French studies in year 10.

To enable students to have a wider choice of subjects, like in the senior years, year 10 semester courses have been introduced. However, students who want to do the French course are required to do the two semesters in order to be ready for years 11 and 12. Language is an accumulative process and it is important that the French teachers need to cover all the grammatical and lexical points.