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**FRENCH***(SUBJECT CO ORDINATOR – Mrs Christelle Luxford)*

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**Rationale of Course/Overview**

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. 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**

The aim of the course is to build upon the communicative approach to second language acquisition developed in the junior years.

The materials used extend the students and enable them to deal with far more complex language situations, so that they will learn to read current newspaper articles, to comprehend the gist of authentic French film and TV, and to engage in conversation with native French speakers. Authentic material comes from the text book *(Au Point – New Edition)*, as well as a variety of current magazines, newspapers, television programs, and films which encourage an appreciation of French culture, language, and traditions, as well as some of the more contemporary social issues affecting modern life.

The following topics are included in the two year course: French cinema, environment, French art, history of France, French speaking countries of the world, sports, hobbies, health, holiday planning, holiday activities, travel, school and career choices, preparing for the future, the media, racism, the French judicial system, crime and punishment, and scientific and medical research in the future.

**Assessment Program**

All four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing, are assessed separately and are equally weighted, i.e. 25% of total assessment. Each skill may be assessed twice per semester for summative purposes.

**Assessment Criteria**

Reading and listening skills are assessed for comprehension of gist and detail for deduction of meaning from context as well as recognition and appreciation of register, tone and socio-cultural references (reading only). Writing skills are assessed by the ability to convey precise meaning by means of grammatically correct syntax. Speaking skills are assessed with reference to cohesion of language, fluency, pronunciation, degree of accuracy, and coherence.