



ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide

French

2025 - 26



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Curriculum Intent

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is committed to inclusive, high-quality language learning for all students through our *Language for all* approach. We believe every student should have access to meaningful language education that builds confidence and foundational skills in phonics, vocabulary, and grammar. By developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities, students learn to express themselves, interact with others, and explore different cultures. Our aim is to foster curiosity and deepen understanding of the wider multilingual, multicultural world.

Head of MFL Department (French and Spanish)

Ms A Dubois

Year 7

In Year 7, students study both French and Spanish throughout the year before choosing one to continue at the end. In French, the curriculum is structured around three themes—one per term—allowing for in-depth exploration and regular recycling of key concepts and high-frequency vocabulary. The focus in this first year is to establish a solid understanding of the three pillars of language learning: phonics, vocabulary, and grammar. Students then apply these foundations in a variety of contexts, including describing themselves and others, discussing school life, and talking about where they live.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 2

Skills developed: Speaking, Writing, Listening, Reading

Classes: Students are taught in mixed ability classes.

Essential equipment: glue, scissors, green pens, basic school equipment

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Culture week, trips

Careers curriculum: Comparing two education systems

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Language (French sounds, saying your name, learning numbers) - Describing yourself and others - Talking about your family - Talking about what you like and dislike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conjugating verbs (avoir, aimer) - Feminine and masculine nouns - Using adjective agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure school bags are packed with exercise book. - Make sure Homework are completed (in exercise book or Active learn – Homework digital platform) - Make sure Vocabulary is learnt from one lesson to the next.
Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing the topic of school - Telling the time - Talk about school subjects - Describe what you wear - Compare French and English schools - Talking about your school day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conjugating -er verbs - Using adjectives - Giving your opinion 	
Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing the topic of town - Describing where you live - Talking about places in town - Saying where you go at the weekend - Ordering drinks and snacks at a café 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conjugating the verb “aller”, more -er verbs - Use of future tense to say what you are going to do - Use of modal verbs (Vouloir) 	

Helpful books/websites:

Dynamo 1

Quizlet to create digital flashcards – useful to learn vocabulary

Linguascope – games to practise vocabulary learnt in class – (class teacher will provide your daughter with Username and password)

Pearson Active learn – Digital Homework platform

Year 8

In Year 8, students build on their knowledge of present tense verb conjugation by learning common irregular verbs and how to form the past and future tenses. As their confidence grows, they develop greater fluency and spontaneity in using the language. The year is structured around three key themes: holidays, free time, and future plans.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 2

Skills developed: Speaking, Writing, Listening, Reading

Classes: Students are taught in mixed ability classes

Essential equipment: glue, scissors, green pens, basic school equipment

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Culture week, trips

Careers curriculum: Travel and Tourism careers, Sports and Leisure careers, Inventors

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	School holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme parks • Transport • Festivals and Celebrations • Food • Future Trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negatives • Questions • Perfect Tense • Present tense • Future tense • Listening and reading skills 	Testing vocabulary and spellings Making flashcards on key words Checking homework
Spring Term	What you do in your free time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV programmes • Digital technology • Cinema visit • Leisure activities • Opinion about Sports • Directions • Injuries and illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening skills • Reading skills • Speaking skills • Saying 'you must' 	
Summer Term	Future plans and wider issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future careers • Earning money • Inventors (writing skills) • The natural world and animals • The environment and plastic • What you would like to do (conditional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modal verbs: Pouvoir, devoir and vouloir verbs • Three time frames: present, past and future tense • Conditional tense 	

Helpful books/websites:

Quizlet, Linguascope, Pearson Activelearn, BBC Bitesize French Edexcel

Year 9

In Year 9, students will consolidate their understanding and application of the three verb tenses learned in Years 7 and 8 by demonstrating their ability to switch between tenses and link ideas effectively in both written and spoken language. Their grammatical comprehension of these key tenses will become increasingly confident. This will enable them to apply these techniques more fluently in their writing and speech. Additionally, their phonetic knowledge will be reinforced, allowing them to read and comprehend unseen texts and decipher phrases and vocabulary at a pace closer to native speakers. These skills will be developed through themes related to My Personal World, Media and technology and school and future plan.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 2

Skills developed: Speaking, Writing, Listening, Reading

Classes: Students are taught in mixed ability classes

Essential equipment: glue, scissors, green pens, basic school equipment

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Culture week, trips

Careers curriculum: Media and technology careers

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	Theme: Media and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about what you do online Talking about what you watch Discuss future plans Saying what you did last weekend 	Use of present, past and future	Testing vocabulary and spellings Making flashcards on key words Checking homework
Spring Term	Theme: My personal world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about your weekend routine Discussing friends and friendship Talking about what people look like Talking about positive role models Talking about celebrations 	Pronouns Reflexive verbs Adjectives Use of present, past and future tense Adverbs	Testing vocabulary and spellings Making flashcards on key words Checking homework
Summer Term	Theme: Studying and my future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about school subjects and school life Discussing school rules Talking about making progress at school Talking about what school used to be like when you were younger Talking about learning languages 	Adjectives Impersonal Verbs Perfect tense Imperfect tense Future tense Negatives	Testing vocabulary and spellings Making flashcards on key words Checking homework

Helpful books/websites:

Quizlet, Linguascope, Pearson Activelearn, BBC Bitesize French Edexcel

Year 10

French or Spanish is compulsory at GCSE; students continue to study the modern foreign language they have studied in Year 8 and Year 9.

In Year 10, pupils will build on the foundations established in KS3. They will start to master more complex language features such as comparatives and superlatives, reflexive verbs, additional infinitive clauses, prepositions, as well as the imperfect and conditional tenses. These skills will be applied to topics of My personal world, Media and technology, Well being and Travel and tourism. Students will also develop their translation skills, gaining an understanding that target language structures and idioms often cannot be translated literally. They will become confident communicators in a variety of scenarios—both transactional and descriptive—and will be able to respond effectively to questions on a wide range of subjects.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 3

Skills developed: Speaking, Writing, Listening, Reading

Classes: Students are taught in mixed ability classes

Essential equipment: glue, scissors, green pens, basic school equipment

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Culture week

Careers curriculum: media and technology careers, travel and tourism careers, Green careers

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<i>Thematic contexts: Media and technology, My personal world</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about what you do online Saying what you do to stay active Talking about what you watch Making plans to go out Saying what you did last weekend Talking about your weekend routine Discussing friends and friendship Talking about what people look like Talking about positive role models Talking about celebrations 	Present tense Future tense Perfect tense Pronunciation Listening and speaking skills Adjectives Adverbs Pronouns Reflexive verbs	Testing vocabulary and spellings Making flashcards on key words Checking homework
Spring Term	<i>Thematic context: Studying and my future</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about school subjects and school life Discussing school rules Talking about making progress at school 	Adjectives Opinions Pronunciation Imperfect tense Negatives Three tenses together Imperatives Modal verbs	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about what school used to be like when you were younger Talking about learning languages <p>Thematic context: Lifestyle and wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about meals and mealtimes Talking about good mental health Describing illness and accidents Saying what you will do to improve your life Talking about lifestyle changes 	Articles	
Summer Term	<p>Thematic context: Travel and tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about ideal holiday Discussing what you can see and do on holiday Talking about festivals Reviewing and booking holiday accommodation Talking about staycation activities <p>Thematic context: My neighbourhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about geography and the climate Talking about environmental problems Discussing how we can work together to protect the environment. Talking about day-to-day actions to protect the environment Discussing new technology 	Conditional tense Question forms Pronouns Using a range of tenses together Modal verbs Negatives Numbers Comparatives and superlatives Present participles Plural forms Imperatives Reading skills	

Helpful books/websites:

Quizlet, Linguascope, Pearson Activelearn, BBC Bitesize French Edexcel

Year 11

French or Spanish is compulsory at GCSE; students continue to study the modern foreign language they have studied in Year 8 and Year 9.

In Year 11, pupils will engage with more complex topics such as the environment, social and global issues and career intentions. They will be able to give and justify opinions using a variety of sentence structures. Students will learn to tackle longer, more complex texts in different styles and recognize familiar language in new contexts, replicating this in their own written and spoken work. They will confidently use a range of tenses to express themselves, narrate past experiences, and discuss their plans for the future. By the end of Year 11, pupils will be equipped with the skills and powerful knowledge needed to succeed in public examinations, develop empathy and curiosity for other cultures, communicate effectively with the wider world, and continue their language studies at A level.

Number of lessons per fortnight: 3

Skills developed: Speaking, Writing, Listening, Reading

Classes: Students are taught in sets

Essential equipment: glue, scissors, green pens, basic school equipment, study guide and workbook

Extracurricular and enrichment opportunities: Culture week

Careers curriculum: Green careers, making progress at school, travel and tourism careers

	Content studied	Literacy focus	What parents can do to help
Autumn Term	<p><i>Thematic context: My neighbourhood</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about geography and the climate Talking about environmental problems Discussing how we can work together to protect the environment. Talking about day-to-day actions to protect the environment Discussing new technology <p><i>Thematic context: My personal world</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding adverts Describing your town Asking for directions Shopping for clothes Describing your ideal home Visiting another town or city 	Numbers Comparatives and superlatives Present participles Plural forms Imperatives Reading skills Adjectives Pronouns Possessives Si Clauses Translation skills	Testing vocabulary and spellings Making flashcards on key words Checking homework
Spring Term	GCSE revision modules 1-7 and Mock Exams	Future tenses Past Participles Perfect Tense Role Play speaking skills	

	Thematic context: Studying and my future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer plans • Future plans and hopes • Travelling and earning money • Career paths • Different job 	Nouns Translation skills	
Summer Term	GCSE Exam practice/revision modules 1-8 and speaking exams		

Helpful books/websites:

Quizlet, Linguascope, Pearson Activelearn Pearson Edexcel Study guide and Workbook for new GCSE French, BBC Bitesize French Edexcel