



FRENCH IN THE SIXTH FORM

WHY STUDY FRENCH AT A LEVEL?

The French language has enjoyed a privileged position in our country and, indeed, the world for centuries. The language has been cherished for its use in literature, diplomacy, politics, charity, sport, industry and tourism. There are 220 million French speakers living in 75 countries, making it a valuable passport to the world. At Walthamstow Hall, we consider it essential that girls should acquire and develop a good knowledge of French, both to communicate with the French-speaking world and, at a later stage in their education, to complement their understanding of other disciplines: History, Politics or Philosophy for example. A competent knowledge of French is also a great asset when choosing a University course, as it is often combined with European Studies, International Politics, Business Studies and Classics to name but a few. The study of French can open doors to a variety of interesting careers.

THE A LEVEL COURSE

A Level French is taught in four double lessons, totalling eight lessons per week. Sixth Form linguists also attend a weekly, individual conversation lesson with our French Assistant. Groups are small and language skills are developed through the study and discussion in French of topics relating to contemporary issues in the French-speaking world, and tested by a variety of multi-skill methods. Students are trained to write accurately, to think critically and to support their opinions with reasoned argument. Independently they are encouraged to listen to French as much as possible, via the radio and podcasts, and to read newspapers and books. Students are prepared for their Edexcel A Level examinations in listening, reading, translation, essay writing and speaking. The study of literature and film forms part of the A level course. Attendance at conferences and study days, such as at the British Film Institute in London is encouraged in order to enhance the students' knowledge and understanding of French cinema.

TIME ABROAD

Travel to Francophone countries is encouraged and for five years running some of our students have embarked on a 'total immersion' French study course. This has been of great benefit to their languages skills, confidence and cultural awareness.

Our Sixth Form linguists choose to study languages at university, combining them with other subjects such as advanced or beginner languages, English and Business.



Two Wally students enjoying their time spent studying in France.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Languages have never been so relevant in our globalised world. Industry is increasingly calling out for language students to fill top positions in trading organisations, banks and multinational companies. The government needs strong communicators and eloquent diplomats to represent the country abroad, and our current political uncertainty will only underline the need for jobs that enable manufacturers and service providers to be able to communicate with new markets and suppliers to grow business and increase sales.

Language students show that they are committed to the core skills that we need in the modern world. They can show that you are a flexible, resilient, world-aware, engaged and eloquent person for whom challenges are seen as opportunities.

A LEVEL RESULTS 2019

GRADE	A	B	C
French	1	1	1