



# ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY

*Excellence for All*

## GCSE French

### Aims

Learning a modern foreign language enables you to work with others, share opinions and ideas and appreciate other cultures and backgrounds. It also helps to develop personal skills that enable you to adapt in an ever-changing world. France is the closest non-Anglophone country to England, and French is spoken by over 275 million people on five continents as either a first or second language. It is the only other language apart from English to be taught in every country as a foreign language, and it is an official language in 29 countries worldwide. Knowledge of French is highly desirable to UK employers due to the trade that the United Kingdom does with France and other French-speaking countries around the world.

### The Course

Students will follow the AQA GCSE French course (specification code 8658). The specification covers three distinct themes, which apply across all four question papers:

- Theme 1 = Identity and culture: Me, my family and friends; Technology in everyday life; Free-time activities; Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities
- Theme 2 = Local, national, international and global areas of interest: Home, town, neighbourhood and region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism
- Theme 3 = Current and future study and employment: My studies; Life at school/college; Education post-16; Jobs, career choices and ambitions

### Assessment

Progress is assessed throughout the course with weekly homework (vocabulary learning) and regular assessments, covering all four key examination skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking). Students are already familiar with the style of assessments from Key Stage 3. At the end of Year 11 there is a final examination for each of the four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking); these are equally weighted, counting for 25% of the final grade. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

### Choose this course if..

Many employers now require knowledge of languages, so that you can deal with foreign customers, represent your company abroad, and even work in a French-speaking country or for a French or international company here in the UK. Even if you don't think you'll directly use French in your work, learning languages develops a range of skills that employers desire, such as good communication, understanding and appreciation of other cultures, logic, memorisation, dedication and application of knowledge in a variety of situations.

### Post 16 Opportunities and Careers

There is an A-Level course in French which can lead to further study at university; many students now combine French with Business Studies, reflecting the increasing importance of foreign languages in business and commerce. (Other subjects which would complement French include: History, Geography, English, Sociology, Politics, Law, Music, Media). Potential careers using foreign language skills include: translator/interpreter, working in the armed forces or for an intelligence agency, teaching, journalism, customer service or working for a multinational company.

### Exam Board Information



<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

### Contact

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