

FRENCH

CASE STUDY

Cassandra, Year 11

I chose to study this subject because I live in a French speaking household and knew that I would do well.

I have enjoyed learning new words that I can add to my vocabulary and also understanding how to form different sentences.

I've also enjoyed learning the friends and family topic because it improved my communication to my french speaking family members.

I have learnt that there is a masculine and feminine way of saying different words and that not all French speaking countries do not all use the same French language.

Even if you have the ability to speak French and having French speaking family members you will still learn new things about the language.



Languages have a reputation for being difficult and it's true that a language GCSE is a rigorous qualification, which is why it is so valued in the wider world.

Why should I choose to study French at GCSE level?

Studying GCSE French is not just for students who want to go and work in France in the future:

- Yes, a language GCSE will teach you **practical use of a language** – which could help you in almost any career and open up opportunities at home and abroad.
- You have developed important language skills and knowledge at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). The GCSE course will build on this and introduce you to a wider range of language structures and vocabulary. You will learn to recognise these and to apply your new knowledge to different contexts.
- But also, **transferable skills** are a watch word among employers, who want candidates with strengths that translate to the workplace. The language GCSE curriculum fosters key skills, such as communication, ICT, problem-solving and working with others and will help you in preparation for the world of work.
- Even if you are unsure whether you want to continue with languages past GCSE level, **university** admissions tutors will often look favorably on applicants with language skills – and some top universities, such as University College London, will actually be demanding a language GCSE for entry.
- EBACC – Depending on which career you are heading towards, you might want to study **EBacc subjects**: English language and literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history and a language. The EBacc is made up of the subjects, which the Russell Group says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees.
- Penfriend – at Bishop Challoner, we have been developing connections with international francophone schools and you will be able to improve your French by building a **friendship with a French speaking student**.

What does learning a language at GCSE involve?

The AQA French GCSE consists of **4 skills** with equal weight (25% each): Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing. All 4 skills will be assessed in one exam each at the end of year 11 (Speaking will be a little earlier).

The content is divided into 3 main themes:

Theme 1:

Identity and Culture

Sub-Topics:

1. Relationship with family & friends (marriage/partnership)
2. Technology in everyday life (mobile/social media)
3. Free time activities (sport, TV/Cinema/music/eating out)
4. Customs & festivals in French speaking countries & communities

Theme 2:

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Sub-Topics:

1. Home town, neighbourhood, region
2. Social issues(charity work/ healthy lifestyle)
3. Global issues (environment/poverty & homelessness)
4. Travel & tourism

Theme 3:

Current & future study & employment

Sub-Topics:

1. My studies (life at school/college)
2. Education post 16
3. Career choice & ambitions

CASE STUDY

Adaugo, Year 11

Despite the fact that French was not an option for me, I would have chosen it anyway because I come from a Spanish background and french is a big part of me.

I have really enjoyed going from Year 10 French to Year 11 because you are given more freedom in writing and speaking and you learn a whole new range of vocabulary to use.

I've also enjoyed learning about the topic "future education and work" because you are able to express you future aspirations in another language.

In taking French I have learned about the opportunities I have if I take it in further education. I also now find myself talking in French to my family more.

I am planning to work in Spain in the future and I believe that if you speak more than one language it will be an extra benefit.

I would tell Year 9 to not to be too reluctant to take French. It is a subject to enjoy and something separate from subjects like Maths. I would advise them to keep up with vocabulary learning.



For further information contact: Miss Mazabraud