

18 December 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

MFL SPELLING BEE

The MFL department would like to deliver you some exciting news... Throughout the year, our Year 7 pupils will be preparing to compete in their first French spelling bee competition. This is a national competition with the chance to win some big prizes!

300 words have been carefully selected by the organisers and these words are amongst the most frequently used and important words in the French language. Throughout the year different activities will be organised in order to help pupils memorise the meanings and spellings of these key words.

According to research, a vocabulary of 2000 words is vital for Modern Foreign Language (MFL) proficiency and accuracy in spelling is equally important as there is much emphasis on this in all the new GCSE exams.

The first stage of the competition has started in class and we will complete after the Christmas break, with the second stage to be held in February. We hope that you will support us in helping your child with their vocabulary learning and spellings and hope they find it worthwhile and enjoyable also.

Please find attached the rules of the competition and useful information to support your child.

Merci!

Yours sincerely



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Rules for the spelling bee

- ❖ Students will be given the word in English. In contrast to a monolingual Spelling Bee, they will first have to translate it into the Target Language and then spell it out correctly using the alphabet in the Target Language.
- ❖ When participating, students will be given one minute to correctly spell as many words as possible **Students must translate the word with the correct article (this includes l'), but they only need to spell the noun.**
- ❖ Pronunciation must be accurate and spelling clearly enunciated. If the word and letters are not clearly and accurately pronounced, a point cannot be awarded.
- ❖ If they are spelling a colour that begins with 'de color', they need to say that in the translation, but only need spell the colour.
- ❖ They should be allowed to finish a word that they started before the time was up.
- ❖ Students can pass at any time, but must say pass in the TL. Accents and other punctuation (note: not question marks) must be spelt in the following way:

French Accents

What does the accent look like ?	What is its name ?
â ê î ô û	circumflex accent accent circonflexe /sɪrkɔ̃flɛks/
ç	cedilla cédille /sɛdij/
é	acute accent accent aigu /ɛgu/
è	grave accent accent grave /gɾav/
ë ï ö ü	diaeresis tréma /tɾɛma/

Note: the œ in sœur should be spelt 'e dans l'eau'

- Space - blanc
- Pass - je passe
- Hyphen - trait d'union
- Apostrophe - apostrophe

L'alphabet francais

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
ah	bay	say	day	euh	eff	jay
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
ash	ee	jee	kar	ell	em	en
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
oh	pay	ku	air	ess	tay	oo
	v	w	x	y	z	
	vay	dooble-vay	eeks	ee-grek	zed	