

A level French

Why study French?

- You enjoy communicating with others.
- You want to learn more about other cultures, including films, TV and literature.
- You might like to work abroad in the future.
- You wish to increase your employability: language specialists usually get preference over other candidates of identical ability who don't have a language.
- Whatever you decide to do as a career, it is highly likely that you will one day find yourself working for a multinational company or for a firm with connections abroad: in France, Canada, Africa or Switzerland.
- There is an ever-increasing demand within the job market for executives, scientists, engineers and experts in sales, marketing, law and management to be multilingual. More and more employers are looking for people who can also speak a foreign language.



Why study French at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- This is a post-GCSE course. We 'bridge the gap' from GCSE to A level with considerable study skills support, and by Year 13 learners are able, for example, to write confident summaries of news items in workshop sessions.
- You will develop language skills in a wide variety of ways, making full use of our two Multi-Media Language Labs and drawing on a range of sources from course books to the Internet.
- In class you will carry out a lot of pair and group work designed to build up your communicative skills.
- We have a range of interactive exercises including vocabulary learning and listening work. Each week, in addition to mainstream lessons, you will have contact with a native speaker through small group conversation sessions.
- We run trips and visits both within the UK and, when possible, to France. Learners can also undertake a work experience placement in France via Blue Stamp Travel.

Case Study

Among the recent successful learners to have taken this course is **Sarai McDonald**.

She came to the College from Langley School and achieved all A* grades in French, English Literature and Film Studies.



She took on the challenge of applying to the University of Oxford and was successful in getting a place on the French and Portuguese degree.

"I have really enjoyed meeting new people and the independence of choosing a sixth form college. Being part of the Team Gambia volunteer project was also a massive highlight of my time here. I found the Learning Centre resources and my teachers were very helpful in my studies too."

Student Sarai McDonald



Course Outline

There are 3 components:

- **Speaking unit:** 21-23 minute discussion with examiner, including 5 minute preparation time.
- **Listening, Reading and Translating:** Comprehension recordings and texts based on authentic material.
- **Writing:** 2 essays in French on a book and a film.

Assessment

No Coursework

Examination (100%)

Examining Board – Eduqas.

Special Entry Requirements

You need to have at least grade 5 in GCSE French and must have done Higher Level. The great majority of entrants have grade 6 or better. These are in addition to our standard A level entry requirements - www.solihullsfc.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

Languages can be combined with any subject at A level. Studying two languages is a particularly good option.

What do our learners go on to do?

Learners progress to a wide variety of destinations. Typically, at least 50% take a degree involving languages, often combining French with another subject such as a second language, or Law, English, Business, Tourism or indeed a wide range of other disciplines. Learners going on to employment or training progress into areas such as retail and leisure and tourism.

Cost Implications

Our trips within the UK can cost up to £50 and trips abroad can be up to £800. You will also need to buy the French novel studied on the course (approx. £10).

Complementary Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in a range of extracurricular opportunities, such as the SCOOP journalism challenge. In addition, they may enter two prestigious competitions: The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators run by the Queen's College Translation Exchange at the University of Oxford, and The Stephen Spender Prize, an annual poetry translation competition that celebrates the creativity of young people across the UK and Ireland.

Examination Results

In the past two years, this course has seen high levels of achievement:

Year	Pass Rate A*-E%	A*-C%
2024	100%	93%
2025	100%	94%

Contact

Address: Solihull Sixth Form College
Widney Manor Road, Solihull
West Midlands B91 3WR

Tel: 0121 704 2581
Email: admissions@solihullsfc.ac.uk
Web: www.solihullsfc.ac.uk