

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.
- The demand by companies for executives, management, scientists and sales people to be multilingual is ever increasing. Employers say they want people with skills such as engineering, law, chemistry, etc, who can also speak a foreign language.



Why study French at Solihull Sixth Form College?

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 Internet and satellite TV. In class you will carry out a lot of pair and group work designed to build up your communicative skills. Our VLE also has 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 'bridge the gap' from GCSE to A level with considerable study skills support, and by Year 13 students are able, for example, to write confident summaries of off-air news items in lunchtime workshop sessions. We run regular exchanges with the Lycée Renaudeau in Cholet (Solihull's twin town). Students can also undertake a work experience placement in France via Halsbury Work Experience. This is a post-GCSE course.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Francesca Manenti**.



She joined the College from Alderbrook School and achieved an A* in French and A grades in English Language and Media Studies. She has earned a place at Cardiff University to study Media & Communication.

"During my time at the College my teachers set me challenging tasks that allowed me to push myself out of my comfort zone. I had amazing opportunities, such as the Team Gambia volunteer project and that increased my independence."

- student Francesca Manenti



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.solihullsf.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 students go on to do?

Students 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. Students going on to employment or training progress into areas such as retail and leisure and tourism.

Cost Implications

Approximately £12 for a good bilingual dictionary. Our exchange trip costs approximately £350 and a work experience placement starts from about £500. You will also need to buy the set text in French (approx £10).

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

We run a beginners' language short course in Spanish.

Examination Results

In the past three years, there has been great success for students on this course, including consistent 100% pass rates. The full breakdown of results is as follows:

Year	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-E%
2018	20	2	4	4	5	2	3	0	100.0%
2019	26	1	9	7	4	3	1	1	96.2%
2020	7	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	100.0%

Contact

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

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