



**“A man who knows two languages is worth two men.”**

French Proverb

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of how you can support your child revise for their French GCSE Speaking examinations that start soon after Easter (**24 / 25 / and 26 April 2024**) and alongside the other subjects later in the summer (Writing, Reading, and Listening).

In your mock exams your child will be tested on all four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking) with four different exams worth 25% each. The Reading mock was completed in November, the Speaking in January and the Listening and Writing will take place in the March mocks.

All three themes can appear in the different exams, so it is important that they are continually reviewing vocabulary, grammar and language from previous years.

Theme	Topic
1. Identity and culture	1.Me, my family and friends 2.Technology in everyday life 3.Free time activities 4.Customs and festivals
2.Local, international and global areas of interest	5.Home, town and region 6.Social issues (poverty, charities) 7.Global issues (environment) 8.Travel and tourism
3.Current and future study and employment	9.My studies 10.Life at school 11.Education post 16 12.Jobs, careers choices and ambitions

### Top tips for students

You cannot cram when you are learning a language **so a little and often** is key for you to succeed in your language GCSE.



### **Listening and reading tips**

Vocabulary learning is important for all 4 skills, but the more vocabulary you can recognise in the listening and reading exams the easier you will find it. In the exam, don't panic when you see and hear words you don't understand, but try and use the context to work it out or focus on what you do know so you can understand the gist.

Here is some advice to help you learn as much vocabulary as possible to help prepare yourself:

- Use your own vocabulary booklets and knowledge organisers are shared on teams each week
- Make mind-maps for each theme with key vocabulary
- Stick up posters around your house with key vocabulary on
- Make vocabulary flashcards and get your friends/family to test you on them
- Make sure you know vocabulary fields such as numbers, months and days, adverbs of time and frequency, negatives and verb patterns for spotting the past, present and future tenses.
- Watch films in French and note down all the phrases you hear as you listen (on Netflix you can look for French language programmes)
- Listen to music in French
- Watch Youtube videos in French
- Listen to the news in French for 5 minutes every day (<https://www.1jour1actu.com/>) and there are many others like [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com)

### **Speaking and writing tips**

Use your speaking paragraphs list to help you learn speaking answers (this will also help you in the writing exam). It is really important that you can produce language in the **past, present and future** so make sure that you can do that across all the different themes. Most of you have finished your speaking paragraphs booklet, keep adding to it (extend sentences, add tenses, varied opinions and structures):

- Record yourself or ask your teacher to record themselves saying your answers on your phone, listen to this when you're out and about.
- Draw pictures to jog your memory with key phrases and practise saying your answers using the pictures and then gradually remove all of the pictures so you can say your answers with no prompts.
- After learning an answer see how much of it you can write or say without looking at your notes.
- Get someone at home to test you on how much you can remember
- Make mind maps or flashcards with key 'fancy phrases' that you want to use in your writing and speaking and spend time learning them – this is particularly important for Higher candidates.
- Make flashcards with how to conjugate verbs in the past, present and future and test yourself
- Make posters with key verbs conjugated in the past, present and future and practise using them in full sentences

- Make flashcards with phrases that you will need across all themes (opinions and reasons, intensifiers, time phrases, connectives)
- Work with Melissa, our assistant during your lessons

### **Interventions in school:**

- Wednesday after-school: two groups (higher and foundation) lead by ERL, RSL and Melissa.
- Thursday morning from 8.00am to 8.40am by MVL
- Easter Holiday Intervention Day (TBC)

### **Revision guides**

We advise you to purchase Target revision guides as they put great emphasis on vocabulary and grammar in the context of exam questions and technique rather than in the abstract.

- For Foundation students:
  - Target Grade 5 Writing AQA GCSE (9-1) French Workbook (Modern Foreign Language Intervention) (Paperback)
  - Target Grade 5 Reading AQA GCSE (9-1) French Workbook (Modern Foreign Language Intervention) (Paperback)
- For Higher students:
  - Target Grade 9 Writing AQA GCSE (9-1) French Workbook
  - Target Grade 5 Reading AQA GCSE (9-1) French Workbook

They are available for £4.99 new and cheaper, used, online (Amazon).

### **For BOTH levels:**

CGP Revision book: GCSE French AQA complete revision and practice with online revision and/or audio disc (the purple one!) An excellent all-round book. (@£12) You can order through the school shop for a discounted price.

### **Tier Choice:**

We will choose if your child does higher (3-9) or foundation (1-5) after we have completed all the mocks in February/March. This can be subject to discussion with the school, with you and your child.

**Further support online:**

- 1) TEAMS > Files > Classroom Materials
  - Vocab Booklet
    - Vocab lists
    - MATs with range of opinions, little words, tenses, etc.
    - Exam-Task specific support
  - Knowledge Organisers for year 11
  - Past Papers with Question Papers, Mark Schemes, Transcripts and recordings
  - Skills support Booklets with activities tailored to each exam question style
- 2) Seneca (free)
- 3) Lyrics training (free)
- 4) **Language Gym – brilliant for all skills – grammar/verbs/vocab learning/Listening skills (we have the school subscription)**
- 5) Kerboodle – the online version of the book AQA GCSE French – (school subscription)
- 6) BBC Bitesize (free)
- 7) [www.languagesonline.co.uk](http://www.languagesonline.co.uk) (free)

**Bonne chance!** Come and speak to Mr. Vidon (Head of French), Mrs Rajwani and Miss Rajwani if you want further guidance or support with your revision.



Yours sincerely

*Michael Vidon*

Mr Vidon  
Head of French