



# FRENCH

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

### WHY SHOULD I STUDY IB FRENCH?

French is a world language spoken by over 300 million native speakers, and is used in many international organisations. French is the fourth most used language on the Internet. It is the official language of over 30 countries, on all five continents, and is the fifth most widely-spoken language. France itself is the most visited country in the world, due to its heritage, culture, gastronomy, history and the beauty of its regions and cities, but the importance of French today is on a global level.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

All pupils will develop their communication skills to help them function effectively in a French-speaking environment. As well as refining and honing earlier grammatical foundations, students will learn to speak and write for different purposes, discussing topics relevant to the 21st Century, such as friendship, the media, film and music, through to social issues, global problems, diversity and identity. Higher Level students will also read two literary texts (modern or traditional) and explore their themes, characters and contexts. The course leads students towards genuine understanding of authentic texts, and could open doors for living, working or studying in a French-speaking country.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are assessed equally. The speaking examination is run internally focused on topics which have been studied in class. Other elements are assessed through two examinations at the end of the course.

### WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The course leads towards genuine communication in French. Beyond that, cultural awareness and collaborative skills are a natural by-product of language learning, alongside the development of perseverance and attention to detail. Other skills associated with language learning are improved memory, problem-solving, critical-thinking skills, concentration, multitasking, and better listening skills. Speaking a second language is also believed to counteract mental decline as we age!

### WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

You may consider studying languages at university and become a translator or interpreter. French is the language of international trade, diplomacy, economic integration, cuisine, art and architecture, and can lead to careers into many fields. The ability to communicate effectively in French is highly valued in many areas of business.

