



THORNHILL COLLEGE

French Department

French is offered as a Modern European Language at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and A-level. Our pupils are encouraged to see French not just as an academic subject but as a living language both in the classroom instructions, prayers, talk of weather, birthdays etc. and outside the classroom (through awareness of French culture and media, etwinning activities, trips to France, visits by French people to the school).

The French Department encourages any experience which will benefit the linguistic and/or cultural awareness of the pupils. French speaking visitors are always welcome, either as speakers/performers to our pupils or as fellow-students mixing with our pupils in the daily life of the school.

In keeping with the new trends in ICT, the French Department fully embraces the use of Multi- media resources such as i-pads for apps, audio-visual material, and on-line resources and communication. I-pads allow the use of apps such as Comic Life and iMovie, incorporating Green Screen, to create interactive activities that allow students to practise their French. QR codes have proved useful both as a way of sharing oral work in French and to provide oral feedback to homework exercises.

Every year we benefit from the services of a French speaking language assistant who, although employed mainly in classes with senior pupils, is also invited to visit junior classes and become involved as much as possible in the daily life of the school. The French assistant also plays a lead role in the Year 8 French club "Club F", organising games and activities to support the learning of French outside the classroom.

The French trip is offered to pupils every two years and is based in the Normandy region. The trip is a great educational, cultural and social experience for our pupils. This French language immersion programme offers a balanced mix of cultural visits and excursions combined with a day spent using the activities at the Chateau de la Baudonnière — fencing, bread-making. All day trips, group activities and evening entertainment are led by native French-speaking animateurs to create a totally French-speaking environment giving our students every opportunity to practise their language. The Normandy Experience gives students plenty of opportunities to interact with the local French community and use their French in an authentic setting including a morning spent at a French market.

The Thornton Cup, in honour of the former Head of French and Vice-Principal, Mrs Thornton, is awarded annually for a project which examines a topic relating to France or French culture, e.g. a town/region in France; French speaking countries throughout the world; an aspect of life in France e.g. food, school, fashion, music, sport, industry; famous French people.

The Award is open to individual pupils in Years 8-10 and the Thornton Cup is awarded to overall best entry.

May 2019

(Please ensure that in your application form, you address the criteria mentioned in the job advertisement.)