

Bridging Resources for Year 11 Applicants: French



St John Rigby College

Preparing for Transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5



Subject

Qualification

French

A Level

Recommended Reading materials

Having an awareness of current issues is especially useful for A Level French. Get into the habit of checking the news, either online, television or newspapers.

Try these to start with:

- 1jour1actu.com – this is a brilliant news website aimed at teenagers.
- 20minutes.fr – higher level of French than the previous website, this free and fully downloadable newspaper is aimed at young adults and commuters.

A bilingual short story book would be an excellent starting point to improve your reading and vocabulary. **Short stories in French by Olly Richards and Richard Simcott** and **Penguin French Parallel texts** are available on Amazon.

Even reading travel guides such as Lonely Planet or 'Rough Guides' can give you a deep insight into the culture and geography of France and the French speaking world.

Recommended websites

- Wordreference.com – essential online dictionary for all budding linguists! **Also available as an app, which is an absolute must.**
- Quizlet.com – many of you will be familiar with this website from school – it is excellent for vocabulary learning. **Also available as an app, which is a MUST for A Level.**
- Verbe2verbe.com – very simple website but useful for checking verbs, conjugations and testing yourself.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/> - lots of grammar explanations and exercises. Also take a look at the 'Culture' sections.
- www.heygo.com This is a brilliant new service which provides free, live virtual tours – look through the calendar and book on to endless trips around the world with local guides. This year, our students have enjoyed 'virtual trips' to Sénégal, Paris, Monaco and Nice. They are hugely informative and inspiring!

Preparation tasks

- Cultural knowledge is a big part of your French A Level. Develop an interest in popular culture, such as films, TV series, music or sport. If you have Netflix, **Lupin** is a fantastic mini series, and there are several excellent, recent films such as **Les Misérables** and **The Climb**. If you enjoy documentaries, try **November 13 Attack on Paris**. These are just a few suggestions, there is so much more available!
- Revise as much grammar as you can – it will make things MUCH easier for you when you arrive. As a minimum, have a good knowledge of the present, perfect and future tenses and adjective agreements. You can use your own notes from GCSE or visit a website such as BBC Bitesize for thorough explanations and activities.

Recommended research

- Research the French charts – find out what is Number 1 in France or a French speaking country during your summer holidays. How many songs in the top 20 are in the French language? Try to find a French speaking artist you enjoy and find out a bit about them or their music. Popular artists include Black M, Louane, Amel Bent, GIMS, Stromae, TAL, Soprano, Indila... If you have Spotify, the 'French Pop' playlist is a good start to see what appeals to you!
- Watch at least 2 French films (with subtitles) and 1 series – there are lots on Netflix, Amazon Prime and All4.
- Follow the fortunes of the French or other Francophone football teams or other sports clubs.

- Download Quizlet and Word Reference apps, and any others you find useful.

- Research language learning apps and try some out – we'd love to hear your recommendations in September!

Recommended trips or visits

Despite Covid restrictions, there are many ways in which you can engage with France and French culture. We highly recommend participating in virtual tours using the heygo.com website. You can also contact the ambassador from Angers to find a French penfriend. Depending on Covid restrictions and safety precautions, we will endeavour to provide an opportunity to visit France and in recent years have visited the beautiful cities of Nice and Montpellier. Our students absolutely love these trips and find it extremely enjoyable as well as educational, and we know you will too.

Tasks to complete

- Make sure you have any stationery you might need to start college: paper, ringbinder files and pens etc.
- Download and familiarise yourself with MS Teams, if you don't already use it!
- Think about any questions you may have for your enrolment interview or the start of the course.
- Develop your enthusiasm – the more you put into a language, the more you get out!
- Get in touch! Like and follow our Facebook page, SJR MFL. You can also get in touch with us directly by email: victoria.humphreys@sjr.ac.uk. We'd love to hear from you!

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