



# Christopher Whitehead Sixth Form

## Summer Bridging Task

### A-level French

Bienvenue, chers amis! To make sure that you are able to make a flying start to the course, I have put together the following suggestions for some ways that you can keep up your French over summer. Some are non-negotiable and MUST be done; others are suggestions to keep up your interest in the subject.

#### Required

To ensure a smooth transition from GCSE to A-level, the following activities are **essential** to your long-term success in French.

#### **To purchase:**

- The department will have an electronic copy of the course textbook available to use in class. We strongly recommend you purchase your own copy so that you may annotate it yourself and study from it at home. The book is called **Edexcel A-level French** by Rod Hares, Casimir d'Angelo, Lauren Léchelle et al. It is available to buy here: <http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product/9781471858161.aspx>
- It would also be of benefit to purchase a copy of the **Edexcel A-level French Grammar Practice Book**. This covers all the essentials. It is available on Amazon here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Edexcel-Level-French-Grammar-Practice/dp/0435396099>

#### **Grammar:**

- You need to make sure that you are comfortable with using past, present and future tenses with regular, irregular, modal, and reflexive verbs. This booklet provides explanations and exercises to consolidate this, but you could also access <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> to consolidate and practise. The French grammar pages on Doodle will also help you to practise. If you are new to the school, please email me below so I can arrange login details for you.
- You should also learn the forms of the key **irregular** verbs (aller / faire / avoir / être / pouvoir / devoir / vouloir / savoir). This website lists the most common/important verbs in order of use and provides testing opportunities (when you click on "conjugation"): <http://www.realfrench.net/grammar/>. It is vital that you know **all** parts of these verbs, including meanings.

All tenses are reviewed and covered in your first year but at a very quick pace. It is important you know the basics before beginning the course, but there is no pressure for you to know it all.

#### **Essential Summer Task:**

As speaking forms such an important part of the A-level course, we would like you to do a short presentation (3-5 minutes) covering the following:

1. Talk about yourself;
2. Tell me about what you have done over the summer holiday;
3. Why do you want to do A-level French?
4. What else are you studying this year and why?

This will be in one of your lessons **in the first week of term**, so you will need to be writing it over the summer holidays. Try not to rote-learn a script, but speak as naturally and spontaneously as you can. You may want to prepare a PowerPoint to accompany your presentation.

#### Recommended

**A-level French is a challenging, yet thoroughly rewarding, qualification and we hope you will develop a real passion for many things related to the French-speaking world. In year 13 you will study a French book and film, so this is a good way of developing an interest early on! To help you with this, I have made the following recommendations that you might enjoy doing over the summer holiday:**

You could do some research into music by looking at <http://top40-charts.com/chart.php?cid=11> where you will find a list of the current top 20, or you could listen to French radio <http://www.listenlive.eu/france.html>. Research popular

French music artists, starting here <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/france/articles/top-10-french-musicians-you-should-know/>.

**Films** - To maintain your French, who not try watching a French film? Try one of the following:

- Au revoir, les enfants (you will be studying this in year 12)
- Amélie
- L'auberge espagnole (the Spanish Apartment)
- Taxi (the French version!)
- Hors de Prix (Priceless)
- Les Choristes (The Chorus)
- Le dîner de cons
- La fille du puisatier (The Well-Digger's Daughter)
- Les douze travaux d'Astérix (12 tasks of Asterix)
- OSS 117 (a hilarious parody of James Bond)

Series on Netflix :

- La Mante – a gory thriller
- Marseilles – a political drama starring Gerard Depardieu

You could always watch it twice; once with English subtitles and the second time with French subtitles.

**Reading** - Try reading a book in French. Your first port of call should be a book you are already familiar with in English (Of Mice and Men, Roald Dahl or Harry Potter perhaps?) because you'll probably remember the story! Have a look on Amazon.fr or pick up a French magazine either from WHSmith or on holiday in France. Whilst there are lots of very good online dictionaries available, like [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com), it may be useful to buy a medium-sized dictionary in addition.

**Websites** –

- [www.french.about.com](http://www.french.about.com) has a feature designed to help you learn a new word per day.
- A good idea to keep your vocabulary up-to-date:  
<http://french.about.com/od/francophonie/a/daily.htm>
- Find a news website in French – try <http://www.newsinslowfrench.com>; TF1, Le Monde or FR3 to learn about what is going on in France.
- Daily motion has lots of videos on a variety of topics, dip into it at [www.dailymotion.com/fr](http://www.dailymotion.com/fr)

We hope you have a good break and really look forward to seeing you in September.

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