

A Level French: Preparatory Summer Work

The tasks below have been set to help ease the transition between GCSE and A Level and to help you to make maximum progress once the course begins.

- Tick off each item once it is done.
 - Bring this sheet, #1, #3 and #7 to your first French lesson in Year 12.
 - Be prepared to discuss these tasks and to evaluate the progress you have made over the summer.
1. Find out the breakdown of your French GCSE result. You should know: your overall UMS mark/grade, the UMS mark/grade you got for reading, listening, speaking and writing. You will need these to set initial targets for yourself.
 2. Undertake a review of GCSE French grammar. You will be expected to begin the course with a thorough understanding of the *present tense* and to know the 3 regular patterns and the below key irregular verbs: (**avoir, être, aller, venir, faire, prendre**). There are many websites and games on the internet which will help you to practise these. Try to find one to share with the rest of the group. **You will have a test on these verbs during the first week of the course.**
 3. Watch a French film you have not seen before (on DVD / at the cinema) and write about the experience IN FRENCH. (200 words maximum) Try to include a range of language and use your own words.
 4. If you don't already have one, buy yourself a decent French dictionary. This should be too heavy to bring to school! Collins Robert is the best.
 5. Try to subscribe to a French magazine via the internet or buy one occasionally from WH Smith. Try to choose one which appeals to you - even Closer in French is fine! You should build in 20 minutes of reading for pleasure in French per week.
 6. Go onto www.radiofrance.fr and find a French radio station you enjoy. Aim to listen to the news in French once a week. Try to follow current affairs in English too, as this will help your understanding. You should find that after a couple of weeks, you understand more and more.
 7. Research different French musicians / groups on YouTube. Identify one that you like and download / buy some of their music. Try to familiarise yourself with the words, expanding your vocabulary by looking things up in your dictionary.
 8. Start planning a visit to France. You may wish to undertake work experience in France, organised through a private company. If you have any contacts in France, you could always go on an exchange, as this is the best way to practise your French.

A bientôt!