



Brandeston Hall

French

Our aim is threefold: to inspire an interest and confidence in the French language; to provide pupils with a thorough grounding in French vocabulary and grammar and to prepare our pupils for the Common Entrance and Scholarship exams.

French is taught throughout the age range in the school. In the first few years the acclaimed La Jolie Ronde course is used – and French is taught via the medium of songs, acting, games and simple reading and writing. Our aim is to provide pupils with good pronunciation, confidence and enthusiasm and to familiarise them with patterns of language and the skills of learning vocabulary. Pupils are also introduced to traditional French songs and playground games.

In Years 5 –8 we follow the ISEB French course, ‘So you really want to learn French’, which provides a solid grounding in grammar and lots of opportunity for acting out little scenes, role play and creative work. The Common Entrance course starts in Year 7 when pupils start to compile their dossier for the oral exam. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups until Year 5; they are set in Year 6 and streamed in Years 7 and 8.

Our aim is not only to teach the language but to show our pupils a foreign culture. This is achieved throughout the year with our themed language days and our celebration of the European Day of Languages. The juniors also enjoy French parties with culinary delights, while our Year 7 organise and run the French café at the annual charity fête. Finally, the annual French Trip to the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy is very popular. This is a residential trip to an activity centre where pupils are introduced to skills such as kayaking, climbing, fencing and orienteering, to name but a few, all via the medium of total immersion in the French language.

Latin

As part of the enrichment programme for our more able students we offer an introduction to Latin.

We use the Cambridge Latin Course, a well established method, with periodically accredited assessments. Not only does the study of Latin open up a whole new world, it helps our pupils with their grammatical awareness in both English and French and naturally enriches their vocabulary in both languages.