

## Languages (French or German)

Qualification	GCSE (AQA)
<b>Course description</b>	<p>The courses cover the 4 traditional language learning skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Doing a GCSE in a foreign language enables students to access and understand other cultures better and to reflect on their own language and culture. The topics for both French and German are based around the following three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme 1 - Identity and Culture Me, my family and friends, technology in everyday life, free-time activities and customs and festivals</li> <li>• Theme 2 - Local, national, international and global areas of interest Home, town, neighbourhood and region, social and global issues and travel and tourism</li> <li>• Theme 3 - Current and future study and employment My studies, life at school, education and careers.</li> </ul> <p>Employers like students with Language GCSEs because they have shown commitment and the ability to work independently and to learn and retain information. Students will be working towards their English Baccalaureate, which is also becoming increasingly important for employers. The course content is further supported by giving students access to a wide range of authentic materials, resources and –as far as possible –visit and exchange experiences.</p>
<b>Method of Assessment</b>	<p>All four papers have an equal weighting - 25% each for the four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper 1 Listening - Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. 35 minutes at Foundation tier and 45 minutes at Higher tier.</li> <li>• Paper 2 Speaking - Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. 7-9 minutes at Foundation tier and 10-12 minutes at Higher tier.</li> <li>• Paper 3 Reading - Understanding and responding to different types of written language, including excerpts from literary texts. 45 minutes at Foundation tier and one hour at Higher tier.</li> <li>• Paper 4 Writing - Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. One hour at Foundation tier and 1 hour 15 minutes at Higher tier.</li> </ul>
<b>Further Study after Year 11</b>	<p>A Level French or German, any of the Humanities or Sciences. Languages would also sit well with Business Studies or Travel &amp; Tourism.</p>
<b>Career Routes</b>	<p>Many professions and international companies need employees who are able to speak a foreign language, and will often pay a higher salary for this skill. Having a GCSE in a foreign language also is looked at very positively by any university. Being able to speak another language will also enable students to work in other countries. Almost all university courses include an option to add study of a foreign language and/or study abroad. Students should do this if they want a traditional qualification, are aiming for university or want to study languages at Advanced Level.</p>