

Year 12 French – an introduction

I am delighted you have decided to continue with your French studies for A Level. In order to bridge the gap between the end of your GCSE studies and the start of the A Level course I would like to suggest some ways to help you maintain the excellent level of French with which you ended Year 11. The A Level course requires you to be able to produce tenses spontaneously so practising your regular and common irregular verbs is very important. Learning a language doesn't have to be boring! Here is a list of things to do before you enter Year 12:

	Date completed	Notes/Comments
<p>Review essential French grammar: www.languagesonline.org.uk - select a topic from the list available. Ensure you revise all tenses and any grammar points which you struggled with in Year 11 – you must be able to form all tenses accurately, including common irregular verbs http://french.about.com/ (Use the search function on this site to review any part of French grammar. There is a lesson and then exercises to test yourself with.)</p>		
<p>Be up to date with French news on: Regularly read the news in French through accessing online newspaper websites e.g. http://www.lemonde.fr/, http://www.1jour1actu.com/, http://www.slate.fr/france. Select a different section of the news which interests you – economy, sports, culture or music. This will help you keep up to date with French current affairs</p>		
<p>Watch French film clips on Youtube or stream them. Did you know that Netflix and Amazon Prime also have International Films? They quite often have French films on there which are subtitled in English: such as <i>Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis</i>, <i>L'arnacoeur</i>, <i>Coco Chanel</i>, <i>La Môme</i> – these will help you become accustomed with the work of French directors and give you an insight into French cinematography http://www.imdb.com/search/title?languages=fr%7C1&sort=moviemeter_asc&title_type=feature (use this website to find a list of popular French films to watch)</p>		
<p>Introduce yourself to short stories in French: http://www.languageguide.org/french/readings/ (here you can read and listen to pronunciation at the same time) http://www.trempinle.com/useful-links--resources.html (use this page to help you find a list of recommended French titles)</p>		
<p>Listen to French radio, select a station according to your interests: http://tunein.com/radio/French-Music-g143/ (You can find music, news or information programmes. Listen to a song or a news item and challenge yourself to work about what is being said)</p>		

... and lastly – keep a list of the dates on which you complete the activities over the holidays and bring this to your first lesson. It really will help you start off the term on the right foot. There will be a prize for the person who has evidence of completing the most activities on the list.

Bonnes vacances!