



Modern Foreign Languages (French) Curriculum Statement – updated June 2026

Vision

The key aim of the MFL Department is to equip all students with the ability to communicate in French through a meaningful and engaging curriculum, that places academic curiosity and cultural appreciation at its core. We are ambitious for our students and have high expectations. We foster mutual respect and positive relationships, and champion cultural capital and an appreciation of the wider world. We aim to raise the status of language learning and to encourage young people and their families to recognise the benefits that learning a foreign language brings. We are dedicated to preparing our students to become valuable citizens of a diverse and interdependent world and to demonstrating the importance of language learning for future study and careers.

Action

At Thomas Telford School, almost all students study French in KS3 and KS4, with the opportunity to continue to A Level in KS5. Each Key Stage has clearly defined end points that describe the linguistic knowledge, skills and disciplinary understanding students are expected to secure. Students develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a carefully sequenced curriculum that builds secure foundations in phonics, vocabulary and grammar. This knowledge is revisited regularly so that learners progress from early language acquisition to increasing independence and fluency. Disciplinary knowledge is taught explicitly, enabling students to understand how the language works and to analyse and communicate effectively. We focus on tense formation, verb conjugation, phonology, register and syntax so that students can manipulate language confidently and recognise patterns which can be applied to new contexts. Alongside this linguistic knowledge, students study a broad range of engaging and relevant topics that reflect their interests and experiences.

The MFL department is proud to teach French as part of the core curriculum (KS3 and KS4) at Thomas Telford School. We ensure a smooth transition from KS2 by explicitly revisiting key phonics, core verbs and sentence-building strategies so that all students, regardless of prior experience, can access the KS3 curriculum. At KS4 students develop greater mastery of a wider range of tenses and structures, increased accuracy and fluency in speaking and writing, greater independence in manipulating grammar and enhanced comprehension of longer, more complex texts. We have a structured approach to oracy progression through a focus on developing phonics, pronunciation, spontaneous talk, and interactional competence as part of the GCSE curriculum.

At KS5 students use complex grammatical structures with precision, analyse and evaluate authentic texts, engage in extended spoken interactions with fluency and spontaneity and explore themes relating to cultural identity, society and politics in the Francophone world.

The MFL Department has an inclusive approach to language learning, and we adapt our teaching to meet the needs of all students. Foundational knowledge is taught and revisited across KS3 and KS4 and appropriate and timely assessments are used to assess student progress and to identify those students who require additional support. We work alongside students in overcoming barriers to learning through responsive teaching, structured progression, scaffolding, accessible resources and flexible grouping.

Students are taught by specialists who possess a wealth of knowledge and experience of studying and working abroad. They benefit from working collaboratively with one another and with colleagues across the TTMAT schools. MFL teachers at Thomas Telford School have access to a wide range of online and digital resources to support teaching and learning. All students are provided with individual access to the 'Languagenut' online platform, which is used to learn vocabulary, practise grammar and to build examination skills. 'Languagenut' is used for independent, home-learning across all Key Stages. We provide advice and guidance to support students in navigating the digital world effectively as learners of a foreign language.

We provide weekly Session 3 support for all aspects of language learning and KS4 and KS5 students benefit from academic support and tutoring. The MFL department also offer enrichment opportunities to share their passion for foreign languages and cultures with students.

Impact

Over the last three years, 95–97% of Year 11 students have been entered for the EBacc , with 144 students sitting GCSE French and 51 sitting GCSE Spanish in 2025. Outcomes remain strong: 83.0% achieved grade 4+ (National 73.1%) and 64.4% achieved grade 5+ (National 60.7%). MFL as a core subject contributed to 64.7% of students achieving the EBacc at grade 4+ (National 25.8%). Beyond examination results, students demonstrate an enjoyment of language learning and feelings of accomplishment, alongside increased confidence when using French. Several students continue to A Level, where they develop advanced linguistic capabilities, cultural understanding, resilience and communication skills which support successful progression to higher education and provide valuable transferable skills for a wide range of careers.

Subject contact

Director of Modern Foreign Languages (French) - Ms L Hutton

lhutton@ttsonline.net