

# **Summer project in preparation for A-Level French.**

**For September:** You should prepare an oral presentation on a French cultural aspect you find interesting. This could be a famous person (past or present), a city, a book, music, art, unusual festivals, etc. There is no limit to your imagination. This should be a fairly detailed presentation, focussing on breadth of vocabulary and more specifically accurate use of the language.

The purpose of this activity is to refresh your French before beginning the A-Level course in September, as well as to introduce you to the idea of giving a presentation in a foreign language. You will be given the first 3 weeks back to fine tune the presentation before you present it to the class. You may have notes, but are NOT to read off a script or the slides.

However, if using very difficult words, it might be useful to have the translation on the screen to help the listeners. Remember your audience also wants to understand what you are presenting.

**The presentation should last between 2-3 minutes.**

For the presentation itself you can have note cards but not a full script. It is always a bit more interesting for the others if a power point accompanies the presentation. Only include the minimum amount of information within the powerpoint – focus mainly on communicating with your words.

You will also be given a booklet to work through to keep up some of the more basic skills but also to stretch you a bit in terms of simple recognition of tenses, which we will go into in more depth in year 12. The booklet also comes with answers, but clearly it is in your best interest to work through each section before checking your work.

## **Suggestions for extensions:**

In order to keep your language fresh and active for September it is highly recommended that you continue to revisit vocabulary using sites or apps you are familiar with such as Quizlet, memrise, Duolingo, Seneca learning etc.

A little, often, is best. Start now. 10mins a day (every other day?/as often as you can) will prepare you for September and next year.

Try to enhance your listening skills by watching films with subtitles and/or watching children's series such as Peppa Pig. You will be amazed at how much vocabulary you can pick up and it is a bit of fun as well!

TV/Films:

**You Tube** is a brilliant resource for TV/film clips/songs. Start with Children's TV (Cartoons? Disney films etc – type the translated title into search.)

**BBC4** (on Freeview and **iPlayer**) shows foreign series/programmes most Saturday evenings. Keep an eye open for anything French. They always have subtitles.

**Any French Films**, but the following are classics/good and ought to be available to hire.

Pagnol: Jean de Florette/Manon des Sources etc

Etre et Avoir

Les Choristes

Amélie

La Vie en Rose

Au Revoir les Enfants                      and many others...

Web site for a French children's news channel: [www.lepetitquotidien.fr](http://www.lepetitquotidien.fr)

You can also follow it on Twitter @petitquotidien

Books/ magazines/ song lyrics

Go to the library. Any magazine, simple book etc to get you reading will be good practice. Try anything you are interested in. Even if you mostly look at the pictures you can learn something from Ok! – French version(!), Paris Match etc

Again, the internet is also a fantastic resource. You Tube clips often come with subtitles to read to

Other suggestions:

### **Ways to improve listening and speaking**

#### **Kerboodle vocab lists**

At the end of each topic you'll find a set of vocab lists – these will help you with both listening and pronunciation. Here is something you can practice when you are set listening activities on kerboodle.

- Listen and repeat vocab list before you complete the listening activity
- Predict which words will come up in the activity
- Listen and tick the ones that you hear when you hear them
- Listen again for the context – is it positive / negative (remember sometimes they try to trick you by saying it is Not the right thing ..etc. )
- Complete the listening activity
- Afterwards read the transcript and underline the parts of the text that answer the questions

It is also useful to listen and read at the same time

#### **Surround yourself with French**

Just having the sounds bubbling away in the background will get you in the French frame of mind. Even better, listen and see what you can understand – what can you guess from the tone of voice?

- French radio in the background (<http://radio.garden/visit/naples/HSBmaHQc> - this site lets you choose any place on the map to listen to the radio from that country)
- French music
- The news in slow French ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QceAQMd-dE> )

- Podcasts ( <https://dailyfrenchpod.com/episodes/>, [https://frenchetc.org/homecategory/beginners\\_podcasts/](https://frenchetc.org/homecategory/beginners_podcasts/) , <https://www.podcastfrancaisfacile.com/> )

Some of these also provide transcripts so you can read and listen at the same time. [

### **Talk to yourself**

It might sound crazy but, who cares? While you are going about your day, exercising, chores, annoyed with a family member, just try saying all those thoughts in French. It will bring up words and phrases you hadn't realised you didn't know – try to find a way around them, can you think of a different way to say it? If not, look it up. This will also help you realise which words you are not confident in pronouncing – If you want to know how to pronounce a word – put it into <https://www.wordreference.com/fren/grenouille> and click 'ecouter' (I've put in Grenouille as an example)

### **Video clips**

- BBC bitesize ( <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zd6y8xs/video> ) watch, listen, read the transcript whilst listening – do the test.
- Extra French ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaNqp4FXh-s> )