French Department Curriculum Statement

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world." Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Modern Foreign Languages are an important part of our young people's education. They allow pupils to discover other cultures. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding and a sense of global citizenship. At King Edward VI High School we believe that pupils should have the opportunity to study a language as there are many clear personal, cultural, social and career benefits in being able to communicate with confidence in another language. We aim to provide a curriculum that ensures that pupils;

- Are confident and enthusiastic speakers, readers, writers and listeners of French
- Are resilient independent learners who are not afraid to communicate in a different language
- Can use core grammar and vocabulary to communicate using the spoken and written word.
- Have a strong awareness of French culture

Rationale

Our curriculum is based on the key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each of these skill areas are practised, consolidated, reinforced and assessed on a regular basis. We also want to touch upon the key topics of the GCSE curriculum in KS3 so those students who choose to pursue a language have a good working vocabulary for these topics.

We want students to be able to confidently communicate in French and we encourage our pupils to use the target language as much as possible in lesson time. To develop fluency and confidence we have incorporated sentence builders into our KS3 schemes of work. We also spend time focussing on phonetic pronunciation as we feel this helps with confidence and fluency.

To ensure pupils can use grammar and vocabulary to communicate we have developed schemes of work that regularly revisit and build on existing knowledge. In lessons we make explicit links to English and other foreign languages' grammatical structures and vocabulary to help pupils recall key grammar and vocabulary.

KS4 exam courses

Students are encouraged to choose a language at KS4. We offer the French Edexcel GCSE course starting in Year 10. Extra support for students is available on a weekly basis after school where students are split into ability groupings so more targeted interventions can be given.

Inclusion and SEND

We are committed to ensuring that all students can succeed in French, regardless of their starting point or additional needs.

Teachers use adaptive teaching strategies to support students, including:

- Scaffolded tasks and clear modelling
- Dual coding
- Targeted questioning and feedback
- Appropriate challenge and support

Students with SEND are supported through high-quality teaching, differentiated resources and close communication with the SEND department. Interventions and access arrangements are used where appropriate to help students make progress and achieve their potential.

SMSC in French

French contributes to students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development in many ways.

Spiritual Development:
Pupils at KS4 have the chance to reflect on religious beliefs and practices in French speaking countries through the study of the unit on festivals. At KS3 we study various festivals as they arise during the year drawing comparisons between French and British customs. These include Christmas and Easter.

Moral Developement:
At GCSE level students are encouraged to consider various points of view on topics such as single parent families, divorce, homelessness, the role of charities, voluntary work, social problems, inequality and environmental issues.

Social development:
Pupils are encouraged to work independently and in pairs or small groups in their French lessons. Students are encouraged to take risks with the

language and learn from their mistakes. In French lessons mistakes are seen as learning opportunities rather than as failures, this develops resilience in our students.

Cultural Development:
Throughout both key stages we use a range of authentic texts including songs, video clips, films and written texts like poems. We regularly draw attention to cultural differences especially around the topics of school and food and drink. We also look at La fête national française – 14 juillet in the summer term.

Cultural Capital

In the past, on collapsed timetable days, we have delivered a variety of sessions to all students focussing on an aspect of a different culture. These have included sessions on croissants and the Tour de France. We have also taught lessons in a variety of languages on European Day of Languages including Italian and Welsh.

Careers and Gatsby Benchmark

The French curriculum supports careers education and helps students understand the importance of mathematics in the wider world. We regularly link classroom learning to careers and real-life applications, supporting the The Gatsby Foundation Benchmarks, particularly:

- **Benchmark 4:** Linking curriculum learning to careers

In both key stages students learn about careers linked to the topics that they are studying as well as those linked to studying a language. Students also develop transferable skills such as problem solving, communication, resilience and analytical thinking.

For more information about the French curriculum at KEVI, please contact the school office and ask to speak to the Lead Teacher of French.