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Our Ref: KJO/MSA

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing this letter to let you know what is expected of your child whilst they are studying for their language GCSE and what you and your child can do to make further progress.

Firstly the EdExcel French Foundation GCSE Exam is broken into 4 skill areas tested at the end of Year 11:

- 25% Listening – Questions and answers provided in English – range of multiple choice/true or false/ gap fill and short answer with one question French and answer French – 35 minutes including 5 mins reading time.
- 25% Reading - Questions and answers provided in English – range of multiple choice/true or false/ gap fill and short answer with one question French and answer French – 45 minutes.
- 25% Writing – A photo description, a 40 word question, a 90 word question and translation sentences into French – 1hour.
- 25% Speaking – A photo description and questions, short roleplay and general conversation on two themes (one chosen by the student) – Approximately half hour in total with 12 minutes preparation time.

The themes and topics covered are:

Identity and Culture

- Myself, family and relationships
- Technology in everyday life
- Customs and Festivals

Local Area, Holiday and Travel

- Home, Neighbourhood and Region
- Travel and Tourism

International and Global Dimension

- Social and Global Issues

School

- School life and studies

Future Aspirations, Study and Work

- Future plans
- Work life

Homework

It is essential that students broaden their vocabulary in French. Therefore, all Knowledge Organiser homework tasks use vocabulary from the lessons. Students are required to spend 15 minutes on www.quizlet.com using vocabulary flashcards then going over a key question, linked to their speaking and their writing exam. These are gone over in class each week and students are given the opportunity to improve their answers.

Exam Revision

Most students do not know how to revise for French, so each student has been emailed a link to support revision materials on quizlet. This features access links to EdExcel produced quizlet vocabulary flashcards for every topic and theme studied over the three years. It also contains access to self-marking online practice questions.

Other sites for Revision are:

- GCSE Bitesize – A revision site tailor-made to the EdExcel exam board. There are listening, reading and writing activities at foundation and higher
- www.languagesonline.org – A revision site with lots of useful topics and activities
- Don't forget GCSE POD as well – great for explaining grammar points

In class, students have also been working on model answers to every speaking exam question for each theme and topic, which also links to every writing exam question. They have copies of these in their folders and should be practicing them, writing them out and saying them aloud. If students need help with pronunciation, then their class teachers can record questions and answers on mobile phones. In class, we also do practice writing questions and all students have an improved version from which they can revise.

Students need to be going over their vocabulary, practicing key verbs in all tenses and practicing writing and saying key questions aloud. They could record themselves and listen back as well. Little and often is better than big sessions of revision, with a healthy dose of a can-do attitude and perseverance.

If you would like any feedback on how your child is doing in languages or any further support then please don't hesitate to contact their class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen Jones

Leader of Learning for MFL