

# MFL NEWSLETTER

Honiton Community College • January 2022 • Issue 3

## Welcome

hello!

shalom!

hola!

salut!

welkom!

namaste!

bienvenidos!

ciao!

Welcome to the third edition of the HCC MFL Newsletter! We hope to add to your language learning experience by celebrating student success, promoting language skills, and keeping you up to date with events and activities in the languages department. The Newsletter is written by some of our very talented Language Leaders, as well as MFL teachers.



## New Year's Eve in France

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/france/new-year-day>

Many people in France start New Year's Day at midnight while celebrating with friends or family members. Public and private fireworks displays are common. People may also sing songs such as *The song of a New Year (Chanson du Nouvel An)* and an adaptation of the Scottish *Auld Lang Syne (Choral des Adieux)* written by Robert Burns to mark the start of the New Year at midnight. People generally spend the rest of the day quietly.



# New Year's Eve in France

The French celebrate the New Year much like everybody else: they have parties with friends and family, countdown to midnight, let off fireworks, and even go for a New Year's swim. Nevertheless, there are certain traditions and customs that are unique to France, and are definitely well-worth knowing if you plan to spend the New Year there.

The French generally refer to New Year's Eve as *La Saint-Sylvestre*.

This is because December 31st is the Western feast day of Saint Sylvester I, who was the Pope from 314-335. His pontificate saw the start of the Christian Roman Empire, and legend has it that he both converted and baptized Emperor Constantine. As well as *La Saint-Sylvestre*, you'll definitely hear someone say << *Bonne année!* >>, which is "Happy New Year!" in French.

<https://thefrenchroomhome.wordpress.com/2020/02/10/new-year-traditions-in-france/>

Email answers to MTH  
P1 for taking part  
P2 if 100% correct



## Language General Knowledge Quiz Questions

1. How many popes were there before Sylvester the first?
  - a. 32
  - b. 33
  - c. 0
2. When did pope Sylvester live?
  - a. In the first century
  - b. In the third century
  - c. In the fourth century
3. Who invented New Year's Eve?
  - a. Sylvester
  - b. Constantine
  - c. The Romans

## Quiz context:

Many countries around the world—and not just France—refer to New Year's Eve as Silvester, or a similar name in tribute of the ancient pope. The Feast of Saint Sylvester is celebrated around the world on December 31, because this was the day he died in 335.





## Student Voice

"I took French is because it is a really good all-round skill to have. It looks great on a CV and is really useful if you ever want to go travelling as many countries speak French. Having been to France, I know first-hand how comfortable it made me even knowing just a little bit of French.

If you choose to take French at GCSE the work will be hard (as it is with any other GCSE) but the skills you get out of it will remain with you for a very long time.

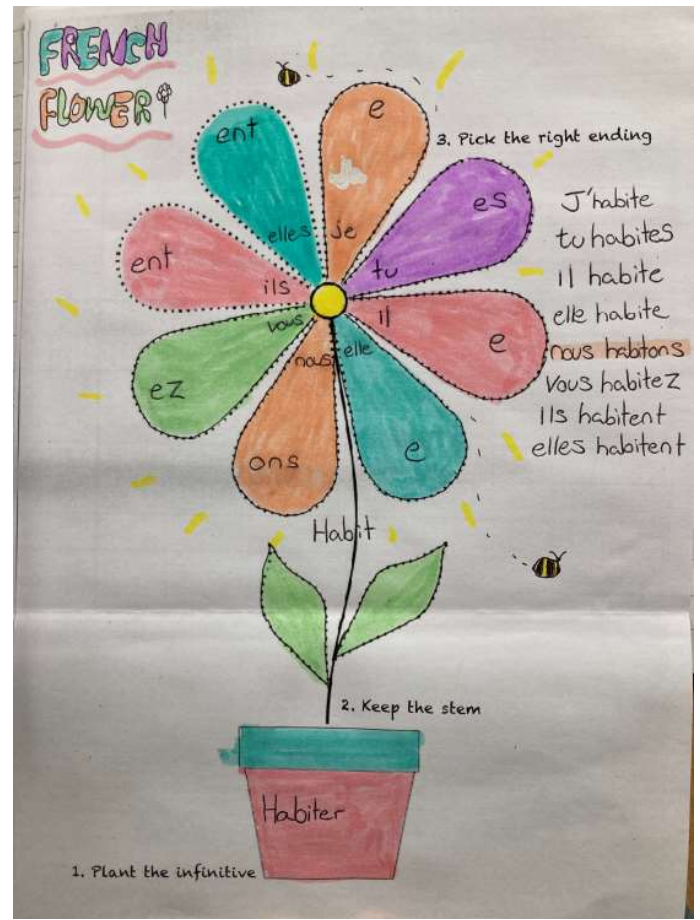
My top tip for revising and studying French would be speak as much French as possible in day-to-day life, and don't be scared to use a French accent!"

(Harry Chambers - year 11)

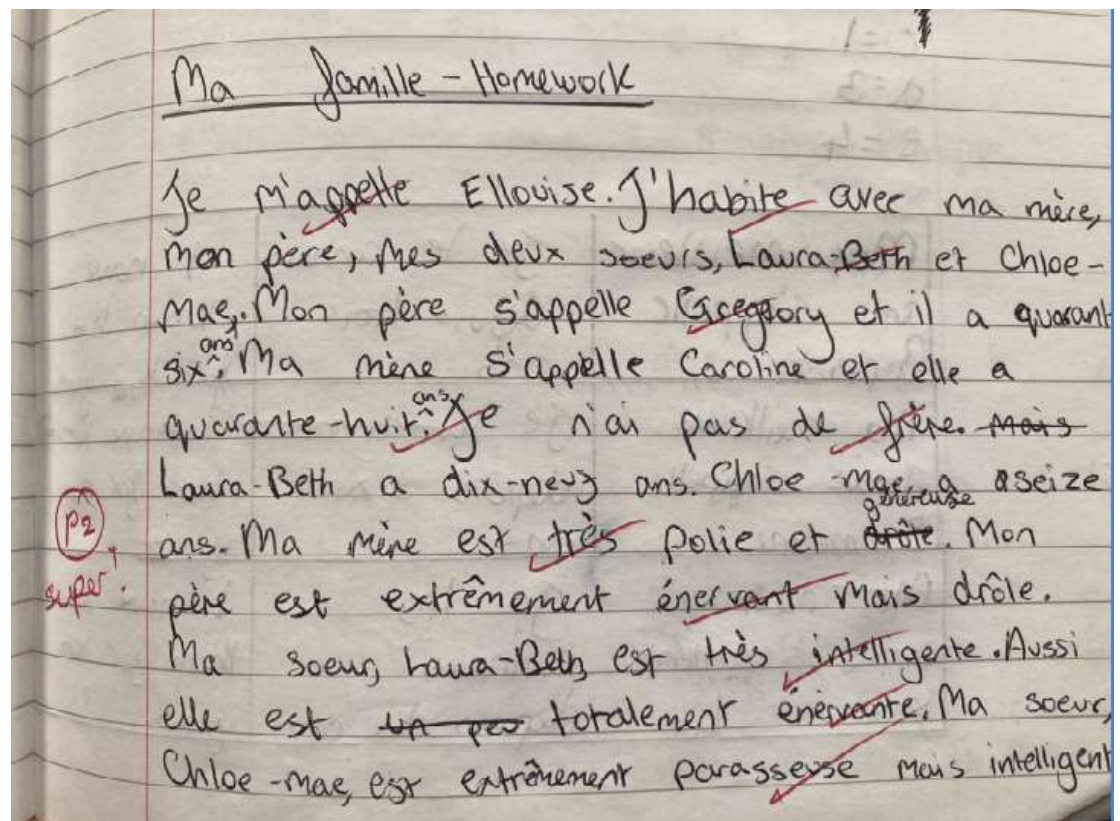
## Student work

Year 7 students have been learning about French verbs.

Congratulations to Hallie Bennett in year 7 for her work on conjugating -ER verbs in the present tense.

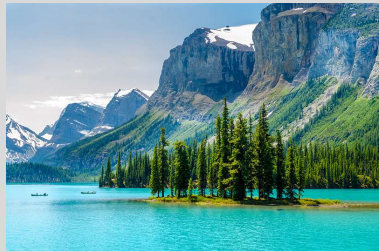


Year 7 students have been learning about how to describe themselves. When tasked with producing an extended piece of writing, Ellouise Outram excelled herself, producing a written paragraph of exceptional quality for a year 7 student. Well done!





# Tales of Staff Travels



*North America*



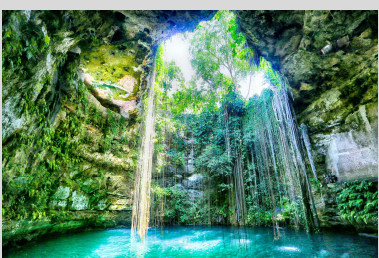
*North America*



*North America*



*Mexico*



*Mexico*



*Miss Jenkins (English teacher)*

I have not lived abroad but travelled in North America and Mexico for a year in my youth. I spent three months in the USA and ten nine months in Mexico. Sadly, although I tried to learn I don't speak Spanish. What I did learn I have forgotten.

My sister lives in Cagliari, Sardinia in Italy so I go there quite frequently and have done so for many years.

I think Italy might be my favourite country because of the food and the culture. The ice creams in Italy are spectacular but I also love the cheese and, of course, the wine.

In Italy they make a pasta sauce with cod roe called Bottarga which is delicious.



*Cagliari, Sicily (island in the Mediterranean belonging to Italy)*



*Sicilian Spaghetti with Bottarga di Tonno*



*Gelato (ice-cream)*

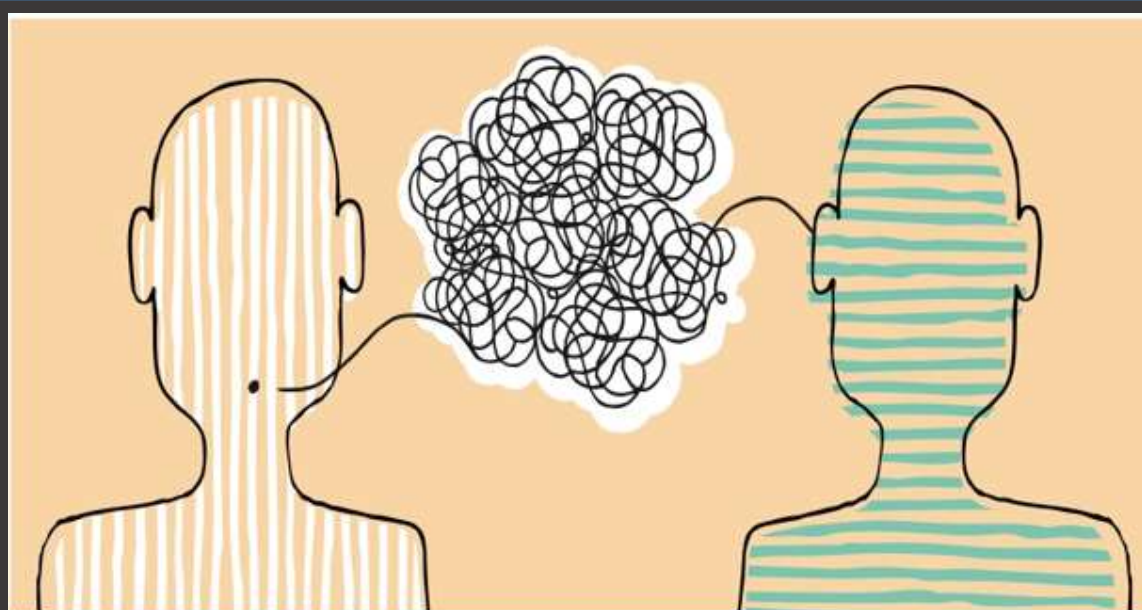
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(Harry Chambers – year 11)



## Busted! Myths and Misconceptions about Language Learning.

### Not everyone speaks English

While English is the most dominant global language at present, 75 percent of the world's population does not speak English. Moreover, the hard truth is that low levels of English proficiency are widespread around the world and the norm in the global workforce.

### It's not longer just 'nice to have'

Contrary to popular belief, the demand for Language Skills is on an upward trend. Not only are languages ranked eighth among the most in-demand skills across all occupations, but research shows job postings directed at bilinguals have more than doubled since 2010.

Languages are an essential skill in today's increasingly interconnected world.

### It's never to late to learn a language

Although there is some truth to the theory that it is harder to learn a language once you move into and beyond your teenage years, this is by no means an absolute. In fact, language learning among adults is a huge growth business as many discover they need language skills to advance their careers or simply want to learn for personal growth and enrichment. People can learn a language and become proficient at any age, and with a level of ease and success—depending on factors such as effort, exposure, and learning approach. So, go for it

### We need more than google translate

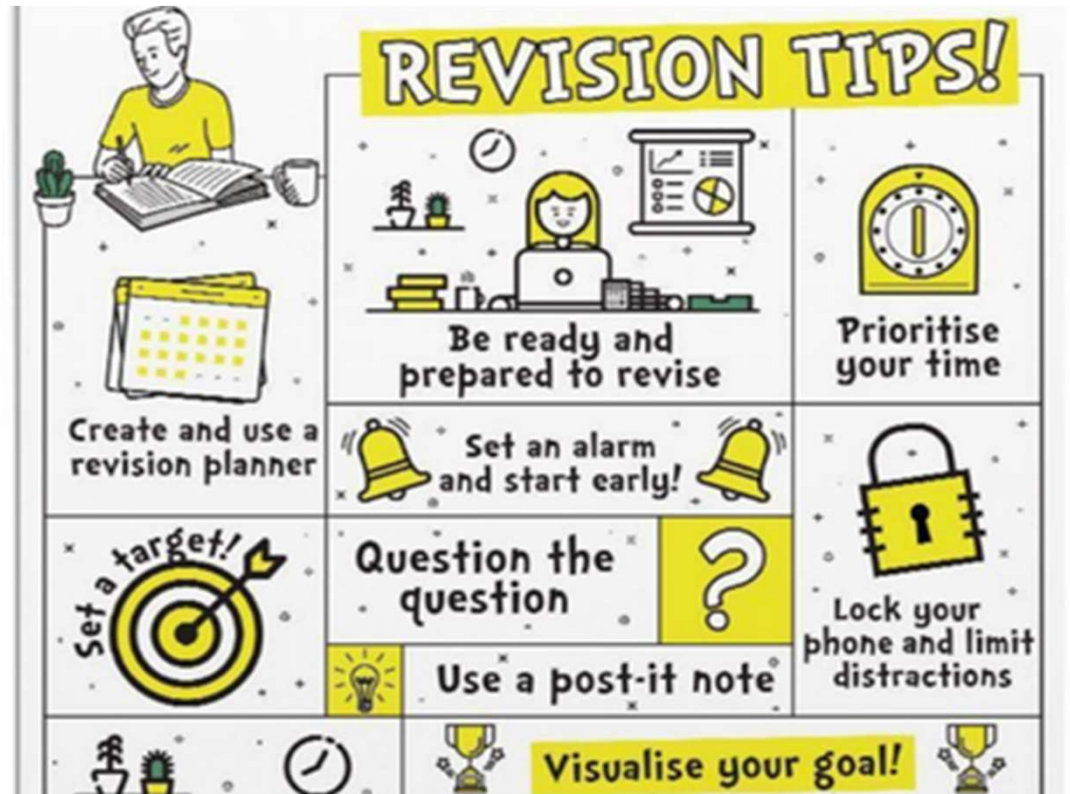
Translation tools can be very useful for basic translations and even serve as effective supplemental learning tools for language learners, but they are nowhere near close to mimicking a human's interpretation or understanding of a language and its cultural cues necessary for effective communication



# Meet a Language Leader

“My name is Oriana and I am a language leader. I’m currently in year Ten and I am taking GCSE French. In my free time I enjoy Singing, Rugby, Debate club and Scouting. I wanted to be a language leader because I like taking on new challenges. I think it would be amazing to one day live in another country and be able to speak fluently in another language.”

# MFL Revision Tips



# Resource of the month

Memrise is a worthwhile app for studying languages, particularly for beginners who are learning new characters and basic vocabulary. The fact that it's more than just a flashcard app keeps it engaging. It is a fun learning tool with lots of videos of native speakers making you feel like you are right there in France!

# January MFL competition

Write a Valentine's Card on why you love either...

- France
- A French speaking country
- The French Language

.....don't forget to hand in your Valentine's Day Card to your language teacher and you might win a fantastic prize!

The winner will be announced on Valentine's Day so good luck !



# DECEMBER COMPETITION WINNERS

We were overwhelmed with so many brilliant and moving entries that it was a very difficult decision to select the winner of the Other Tongue Mother Tongue Competition but after much deliberation we are delighted to announce that Ruby (year 8) and Isaac (year 7) have been chosen as the overall winners. Their work is published below.

Congratulations Ruby and Isaac. You have earned a P3. Don't forget to collect your prize from the MFL department too!

## Note from Ruby:

*I authored this poem about birds because whenever my family sees a bird (mainly a robin) we see it as a dead friend, family member or pet trying to say hello to us. This is significant to me because they remind me of new beginnings and staying connected to those in the past at the same time.*

## Original Entry by Ruby - The Birds

### French:

À l'aube,  
Les oiseaux chantent comme une berceuse,  
Adieu la lune.  
Bienvenue au nouveau jour  
C'est ce qu'ils sont ici pour dire.

Leurs ailes déployées,  
Leurs nids se sont enfuis  
Regarder de loin,  
Ils ont dit

Nous prendrons soin de vous,  
Nous ferons  
Tout ce qu'il faut pour t'illuminer,  
Votre visage un-brillant,  
Rempli de lumière  
Oh,  
Quelle belle vue.

Au crépuscule,  
Les oiseaux chantent une berceuse,  
Dire au revoir au soleil.  
Adieu à l'ancien jour  
C'est ce qu'ils sont ici pour dire.

### English:

At dawn,  
Birds sing like a lullaby,  
Waving the moon goodbye.  
Welcome to the new day  
Is what they are here to say.

Their wings a-spread,  
Their nests a-fled  
Watching from a distance,  
They said  
We will care for you,  
We will care for you  
We will do  
Whatever it takes to illuminate you,  
Your face a-bright,  
Filled with light  
Oh,  
What a beautiful sight.

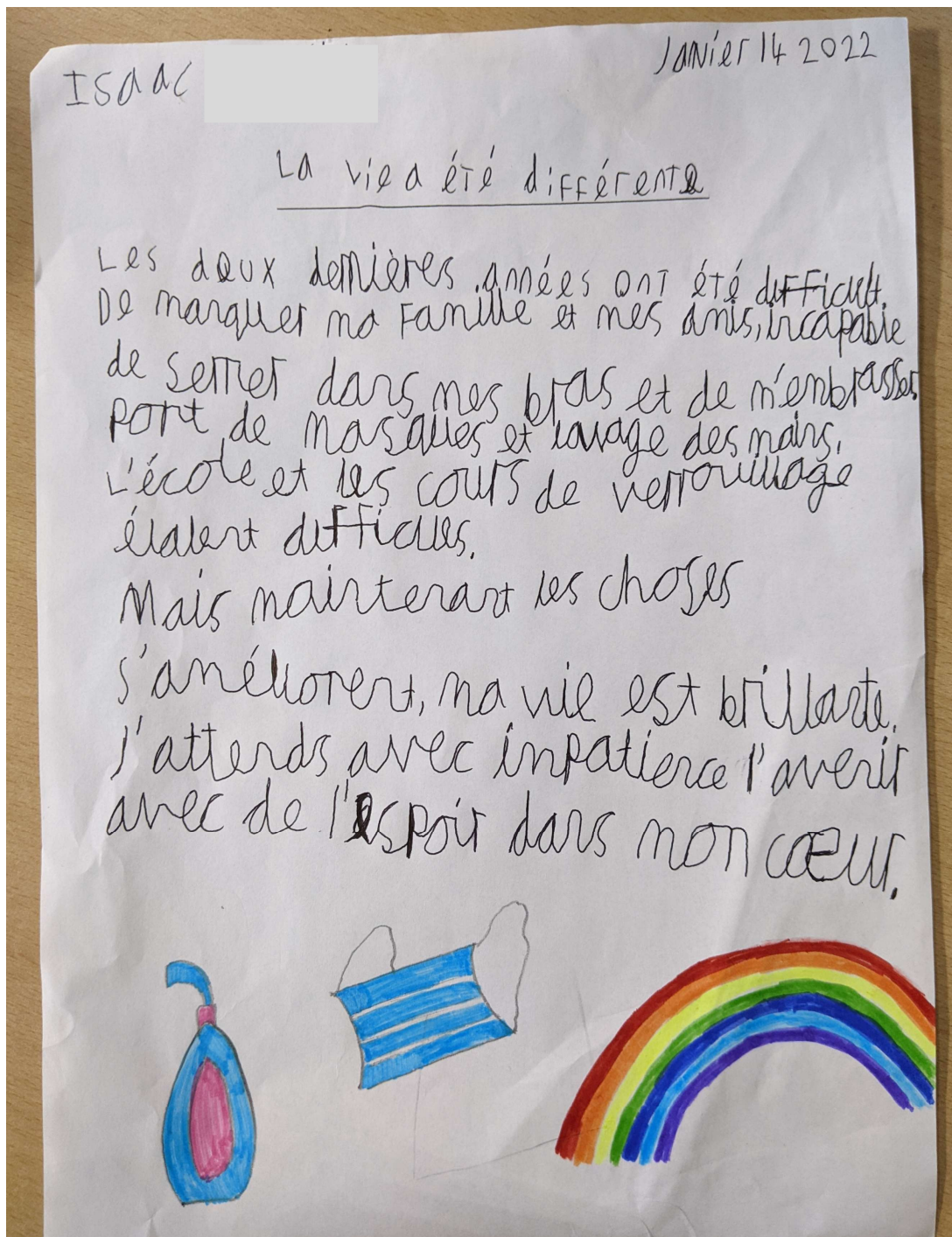
At dusk,  
Birds sing a lullaby,  
Waving the sun goodbye.  
Goodbye to the old day  
Is what they are here to say.

## Original Entry by Isaac - La vie a été différente (Life has been different)

### Translation

The last two years have been difficult. Missing my family and my friends, unable to hold in my arms and to hug, wearing masks and washing hands. School and lessons in lockdown were hard.

But now things are getting better. My life is brilliant. I am looking forward to the future with hope in my heart.





# CAREERS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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**IF YOU LIKE FOREIGN LANGUAGES, CONSIDER  
ONE OF THESE CAREERS.**

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

HOSPITALITY WORKER

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

INTERPRETER

LINGUIST

MILITARY PERSONNEL

NURSE

PEACE CORPS WORKER

SOCIAL WORKER

TEACHER / PROFESSOR

TOUR GUIDE

TRANSLATOR

TRAVEL AGENT



# MFL Job Options

In diplomacy, French is an official language of powerful and influential bodies such as:

- the United Nations
- NATO
- the International Olympic Committee
- the Council of Europe
- the European Space Agency
- the World Trade Organization

In non-profit work, French is important as a "lingua franca," because the French have founded a number of international non-profits, and because of the widespread use of French in Africa, where many aid organizations work.

French is a working language for top NGOs such as:

- the Red Cross
- Amnesty International
- Doctors without Borders

<https://www.degreequery.com/french-degrees/#section-eleven>

JUST SOME CAREER OPTIONS LANGUAGES CAN OFFER YOU!

Everyone Should Do Something They Love!



Languages Are Fun And Open Up So Many More Options!

1. Translator
2. Interpreter
3. Language Teacher
4. Tour Organiser/Operator
5. International Aid Worker
6. Diplomacy/Foreign Service Officer
7. Journalist Abroad
8. Business/Finance Career Abroad
9. Working For International Company
10. Travel Agent

## Come To MFL Club And Discover The World Around You!

Every Thursday Lunchtime 13.20 to 13.50. All year groups welcome.

It will be run by the Language Leaders who are a friendly bunch and will look forward to meeting you!

Things that we will do!



## Students of the month

Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated by their MFL teachers as outstanding students of the month.

Well done for all your hard work and effort - you have earned a P2!

Yr7 – Ellouise Outram

Yr8 – Harry

Yr9 – Kara Grantham

Yr10 – Jess Humphris

Yr 11 – Douglas

If you would like take part in the production of the newsletter, then we would welcome your involvement. Speak to MTH to find out more.