

MFL NEWSLETTER

Honiton Community College • July 2022 • Issue 9

Welcome

hello!

shalom!

hola!

salut!

welkom!

namaste!

bienvenidos!

ciao!



Plage de Palombaggia in Corsica - France

Welcome to the ninth 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.

MFL CLUB – YEARS 7+8 - THURSDAYS - 1.20-1.50pm

JULY

07.07.22 – L4:
Presentation on travel and culture by year 7 students

14.07.22 – L4:
Guest speaker Mrs Hay

21.07.22
Learn some useful holiday French/Spanish/Italian/German

Tales of Staff Travels

*Mr Smith
interviewed by
Kaitlyn Worthington
(Language Leader,
year8)*



Canada and Alaska were also amazing, though I was saddened by the images of retreating glaciers – we must do much more to slow down global warming!

What is your favourite foreign food/drink?

I really liked the odd Caipirinha (the national drink of Brazil), or three, when I travelled there and stayed in Rio De Janeiro. However, a chilled Mythos on any Greek island is just as memorable 😊. Food wise, I think the Ostrich steak I ate in Oudtshoorn, WC, S. Africa was delicious (and much smaller than the drumstick...) – apparently, it has a very low fat content and it just melted in one's mouth (apologies to all non-meat eaters...). The worst foodstuff I tried was Injera, a sour flatbread used in Ethiopian cuisine (we nicknamed it Endura as it was an endurance test!). I also wasn't keen on the traditional way of eating there. Generally eating in Ethiopia does not require utensils, instead one would tear off a piece of injera, scoop up some of the local delicacies on offer (using just the fingers of the right hand) and feed the person to your left. Probably why I had such a bad tummy in Ethiopia, but I did not want to offend my hosts.

If you could live in any country, what would it be?

If we are talking short-term then perhaps it would be a Greek Island, maybe Paros. If it was long-term then possibly Canada.

What are your travel plans for your retirement?

Already planned are: More Greek islands, Spain and France. In the planning stage are: the West Coast of America and S.E. Asia. The list is still long and time stands still for nobody 😊.

Do you speak another language?

Sadly, no. I dropped German, French and Latin in Y9. One of my biggest regrets in life.

Have you ever lived abroad? How long for? Where?

No I have not.

Do you often travel to other countries for holidays? If so, which ones?

Yes I do, and I know I am lucky to have travelled to lots over the years.

When on holiday abroad, do you make the effort to speak a few words in the language, even if just a few words? Does it make a difference to how you are treated?

Definitely, I try to get by with the basic when I travel. I think the locals appreciate you trying and as a result are more accommodating.

Have you ever been surprised by a cultural difference when travelling abroad?

Ethiopia, was a contrast for many reasons: food, economics, security, religion and education. It was a real assault on all of your senses.

What is your favourite foreign country and why?

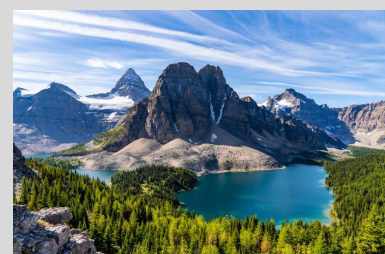
South Africa was probably the best experience to date. The geography/landscape, culture, people, food and exciting opportunities made it a trip to remember – I was lucky enough to jump out of a plane over St Francis Bay (with a parachute...).



Ethiopia



St Francis Bay, South Africa



Canada



Alaska



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Paros, Greece

Did you know?

By Poppy Gryman - year 8 Language Leader

Inspirational Multi-Lingual Well Known People!

VIGGO MORTENSEN – Best known for his role as Aragon in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, speaks Spanish, Danish, French and Italian. He also understands Norwegian and Swedish.

VENUS WILLIAMS – International Tennis Player, speaks fluent French , German, Italian and Chinese .

EMMA WATSON – The Harry Potter star speaks fluent French, thanks to her French Grandmother and an upbringing in Paris,

SHAKIRA – Colombian singer, native in Spanish, and fluent in English, French, Portuguese, Catalan and Arabic.

COLIN FIRTH – This English actor is now fluent in Italian so he can communicate with his Italian wife and family.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC – Besides being one of the best tennis players in the world, Novak is a self -proclaimed linguist. Speaking Serbian, English, German, Italian, Spanish and French.

NATALIE PORTMAN – This well-known Hollywood actress is fluent in Hebrew. Being born in Jerusalem and having had a passion for languages since childhood, she also speaks French, Japanese, German and Arabic.

EDWARD NORTON – Actor- After graduating, Norton worked in Japan, becoming fluent. He also speaks Spanish and French fluently.

By Poppy Gryman Y8

RITA ORA – Rita, best known as an English singer, was actually born in Yugoslavia. Although growing up in the UK, her native language is Albanian, and she tries to speak it as much as she can.

PENELOPE CRUZ – This Hollywood actress is fluent in Spanish, French, Italian and English. Born and raised in Spain but went to a French School, where she learnt fluent French.

BRADLEY COOPER – Bradley is fluent in French and has often conducted interviews in French to his worldwide fans.

CHRISTOPHER LEE – Best known for his iconic role in Dracula, Lee spoke English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, Russian, Swedish and Greek!

TOM HIDDLESTON – The Avengers actor speaks, Italian, Spanish, and French fluently. He also speaks Greek and some Russian and has a knowledge of Latin, German, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese!

SALMA HAYEK – Being nominated for an Academy award for best actress in Hollywood, Salma is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, English and Arabic.

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT – First female U.S Secretary of State. Originally from Prague, her parents were refugees who fled Nazi Germany. Eventually settling in the USA, Madeleine spoke Polish, Russian, Czech, Slovak, French, German and Serbo-Croatian.

By Poppy Gryman Y8

Fun Facts about France

In the 18th century, the French society was split into three social classes: clergy, nobles and commoners. This system left the commoners (who made up most of the population) without food and money from the poor pay they got from working on nobles land, and from all of the taxes that they had to pay to make up for Louis XVI extravagant spending.

People who were against this system would be locked up in "La Bastille Saint Antoine". Obviously, every commoner was angry with the raise in taxes, and so on the 14th of July, 1789, rioters broke into Bastille and set the 7 prisoners free, as well as stealing weapons and shooting many of the guards. This was seen as an enormous success to all of the commoners, and is now known as "the storming of Bastille".



Bastille Day

The "storming of Bastille" led to future riots and eventually, many nobles and the king's executions. The commoners declared France as a republic and flew their flags high. They adopted the phrase "Freedom, Equality, Brotherhood". It was also common to wear little red farmer's caps to show you were supporting the protests, as well as jewellery being made out of pieces of Bastille in remembrance of their triumph.



From then on the 14th of July has been known as Bastille day, or France's National Day. It is widely celebrated and remembered as the day of freedom.

By Abbie - year 9



Every French person celebrates Bastille day. They:

- * Hang up French flags
- * Have firework displays
- * Military marches are held at Champs-Elysees
- * People meet with their family
- * Have big city dances



Bastille Day

Bastille Day is the common name given in English-speaking countries to the national day of France, which is celebrated on 14 July each year. In French, it is formally called the Fête nationale française; legally it is known as le 14 Juillet.

It marks the fall of the Bastille, a military fortress and political prison, then considered a symbol of the monarchy and armory.

They hoped to free prisoners at the Bastille, as it was traditionally a fortress in which political prisoners were held.

It was a period of panic and riot by peasants and others amid rumors of an "aristocratic conspiracy" by the king and the privileged to overthrow the Third Estate.

By Lilian - year 9

French Travel Tips

Avoid being a target for pickpockets.

Like many global cities, Paris and others in France are hotspots for pickpockets and scammers. In Paris, be especially alert around major tourist attractions like the Louvre, along the Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Sacré-Cœur, and the Eiffel Tower.

It's easy to get caught up in the sights, but don't let anyone approach you trying to get you to sign a petition, put a bracelet on your wrist, or give you a ring they "found" on the ground. They're all scams!

Also, never leave your mobile phone on a café or restaurant table even if it's just a few inches away from your hand. Thieves are fast and are masters at distracting you so they can grab your phone in the blink of an eye!

Get out of big cities.

If your schedule allows for it, get out of Paris and other big cities to experience the countryside and the magic of small-town France. There are some easy day trips from Paris, such as the Mont St-Michel.

<https://www.ouiinfrance.com/france-tips-first-time-travelers/>

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

<https://www.beelov edcity.com/france-quiz>



France Geography Quiz Questions

1. What is the French name for Lake Geneva?
2. What is the highest mountain in France?
3. Which chain of mountains can you find between Spain and France?
4. What is the second-largest city in France?
5. On which French island can you find the volcano "Le Piton de la Fournaise"?
6. What is the capital of New Caledonia?
7. Which river flows through Paris?
8. In which sea can you find Corsica?
9. Which country has the largest land border with France?
10. Which sovereign city-state is located on the French Riviera?

Winner of the June MFL Competition



We recently launched our first ever French Flash Fiction Competition.

The competition was open to students in Years 7 to 13, who were tasked with writing a short story of no more than 100 words in French.

We had a brilliant response, with entries coming in from across a variety of year groups. The judges were very impressed with the quality of students' work.

We would like to thank everyone who entered the competition and commend you all for your hard work and creativity in writing a piece of fiction in a different language. This was a challenging exercise, and a significant achievement..

The winner is **Eve** in Year 9. The runner-up was **Emily** in Year 8.

The judges also highly commended **Maci, Ruby and Isobel**.

Winner of the French Flash Fiction competition

Winner: Eve – year 9

Elle se tenait au bord de la falaise, regardant la mer noire en dessous d'elle. Une petite lumière brillait sur les vagues. C'était joli. La nuit avait vaincu le monde, et maintenant tout dormait. Tout, sauf elle. Ses cheveux blancs soufflaient légèrement dans la brise, la lumière continuait à briller, elle devenait de plus en plus brillante. Elle tendit une main vers elle, son bras était couvert d'images d'époques révolues, deux bracelets bleu et or pendaient lâchement à son poignet. Le bout de ses doigts a commencé à briller et elle a disparu. La lumière a disparu. Tout était sombre.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION: She stood at the edge of the cliff, staring down at the black sea below her. A small light glowed on the waves. It was pretty. The night had overcome the world, and now everything was sleeping. Everything, except her. Her white hair blew in the breeze slightly, the light continued to glow, it was becoming brighter, brighter. She stretched out a hand towards it, her arm was covered with pictures of ages gone by, two blue and gold bracelets hung loosely upon her wrist. Her finger tips began to glow, and she vanished. The light vanished. Everything was dark.

Runner-up: Emily – year 8

La petite chaumière se tenait seule dans le pâle clair de lune de la France. Une petite lumière éclairait une des vitres mais personne n'était à la maison. Elle a disparu dans la forêt pour ne jamais revenir. Un loup hurlait au loin, la seule créature à des kilomètres.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION: The little thatched cottage stood alone in the pale moonlight in France. A small light lit up one of the windows but nobody was home. It disappeared into the forest, never to return. A wolf howled in the distance, the only creature for miles.

Commendation: Maci – year 8

C'était une chaude nuit d'été et j'étais en France avec Jasmine. Nous étions montés au sommet de la tour Eiffel et nous étions épuisées. Nous avons regardé dehors et la vue était incroyable. Le soleil se couchait là où il n'y avait pas de nuages dans le ciel. C'était si paisible.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION: It was a hot summer's night and I was in France with Jasmine. We had climbed to the top of the Eiffel Tower and we were exhausted. We looked out and the view was incredible. The sun was setting and there were no clouds in the sky. It was so peaceful.

MFL Poetry Translation

tips

Read it through, both on the page and out loud exploring it from all angles.

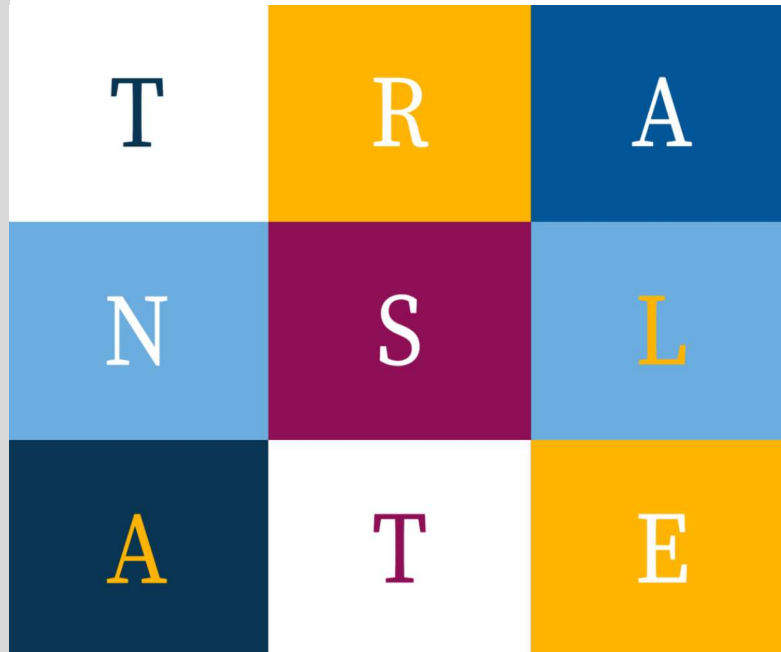
How does it make you feel? Consider the tone and the atmosphere it depicts. Think of some adjectives that come to mind when you read it: is it joyful, sad, contemplative?

Listen to how the words and lines sound in the original. Is the poem smooth and flowing, or does it have an abrupt, staccato rhythm? Does it build up to a crescendo, or start with intensity and settle into calm?

Circle and look up any words you don't know (don't worry if this is most of them!) in a physical or online dictionary. If you can't find them there, ask a teacher. Are there any cultural references in the original which would be unfamiliar to an English-language reader? How do you feel these could be best conveyed? Perhaps they can be retained, giving the reader a sense of something new and previously unknown. Or maybe it will serve your translation better to reimagine these, creating an equivalent feeling in the English language.

<https://www.stephenspender.org/stephenspender-prize/open-entry/>

SUMMER CHALLENGE



Translation can seem a daunting and mysterious process when you're new to it. But here's the thing: there is no right or wrong way to translate, and no such thing as one perfect translation. If you were to give the same text to ten different people, the translations they'd produce would all be very different. What matters is being playful with language, and enjoying the process of bringing the poem into English.

FRENCH POETRY TRANSLATION CHALLENGE

Students from years 7-10 are invited to provide a translation of this French poem by Francis Jammes, which was set to music by Lili Boulanger.

Your entry must be in English, your own unaided work and not borrowed from an existing translation (you may of course use a dictionary).

Elle était descendue...

Elle était descendue au bas de la prairie,
et, comme la prairie était toute fleurie
de plantes dont la tige aime à pousser dans l'eau,
ces plantes inondées je les avais cueillies.
Bientôt, s'étant mouillée, elle gagna le haut
de cette prairie-là qui était toute fleurie.
Elle riait et s'ébrouait avec la grâce
dégingandée qu'ont les jeunes filles trop grandes.
Elle avait le regard qu'ont les fleurs de lavande.

Try and make it work for the music as well as the words.

There is an example of the French text being sung here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElcOufkqA6I>

The closing date is Friday 9th September 2022



Student Voice



"I signed up for the MFL Spelling Bee because I'm competitive. I was nervous and confident. To revise, I used flashcards, testing, writing the words out repetitively every other day." (Josh Lane- year 7)



"I wanted a fun challenge and I enjoy French. It has been an enjoyable and exciting experience. To revise, I got someone to test me on the words." (Luke O'Toole - year 7)



"I signed up for the MFL Spelling Bee because I wanted a challenge. For the entire experience I was nervous. My parents tested me so I could learn the spellings." (year 7 student)

MFL Spelling Bee Finals

Over the last few months, Y7 students have been taking part in an MFL Spelling Bee competition. Yesterday, the 10 finalists had to spell 40 French words which were randomly selected from a list of 130 words. They all gave their best performance and we are very proud of their accomplishments. They have put in a tremendous amount of effort and shown immense dedication over the last few months. Congratulations to the individual category specialists who each won a gold certificate and to the overall winner Reese who gained a platinum certificate!



MFL Club Activities

Mr Woodward (Science teacher) and Mrs Hay (Director of Finance) have been invited to the MFL club as guest speakers to talk about their time living, working or holidaying abroad. It has been fascinating to discover more about the world, to learn what is considered polite or impolite in different cultures and to hear how saying just a few words in another language can go a long way when abroad.



To mark the end of a fun year of MFL club, year 7 and 8 students were invited to enjoy a traditional French breakfast. Croissants, crêpes and baguettes were smothered in jam and chocolate spread and were appreciated by all participants. Bon appétit!



MFL and Career Options

Skills for your CV

Studying a modern language degree will help you to develop good oral and written communication skills, and will also enable you to:

- effectively gather, assess and interpret information
- lead and participate in discussions and groups
- organise your workload to meet deadlines
- develop opinions and propose ideas
- read pages of text and pick out the essential points.

Spending a year abroad during your degree where you'll adapt to new and changing surroundings will make you more resourceful and increase your cultural awareness. It will also enhance your ability to work independently and to relate to others and work as part of a team. In an increasingly global jobs market, these skills are highly valued by employers, whichever career you go into.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/modern-languages>

Why knowing languages is an important skill in the workplace.

By Jack - year 8

Knowing a language is extremely useful in many jobs because there are some jobs that require the language to not get sacked.

A Football player

Why should young and emerging football players learn a language? Learning a language helps their careers last longer and gives them more opportunities to develop, particularly because you can play anywhere in the world right now. The biggest emerging league at the moment is the Chinese one.



Leo Messi, CR7, Karim Benzema, KDB and Mo Salah.

A chef

It is useful to know languages as a lot of food comes from foreign countries and they could then read the ingredients easily.



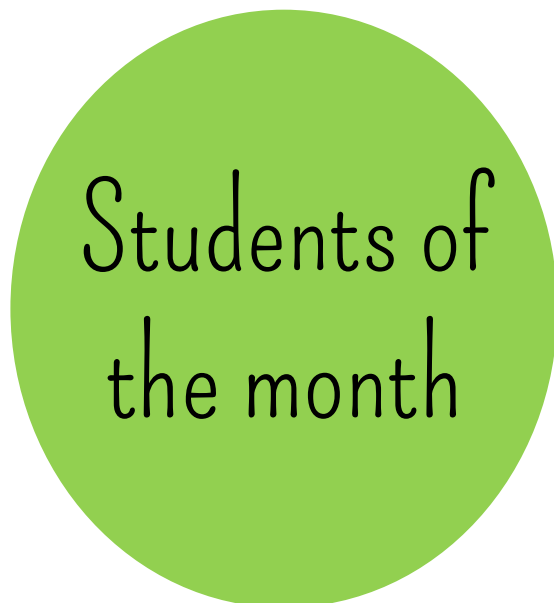
Gordon Ramsay and Jamie Oliver.

Someone in the military

People in the military might find it easier if they are helping a Ukrainian or Afghanistan refugee because they speak a completely different language.



Royal Navy, Royal Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Marines.



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!

Year 7 – Hallie Bennett

Year 8 – William

Year 9 -Tilly

Year 10 – Charlotte

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.