

# MFL NEWSLETTER

Honiton Community College • September 2022 • Issue 10

Welcome

hello!

shalom!

hola!

salut!

welkom!

namaste!

bienvenidos!

ciao!

Welcome to the tenth 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+9 - THURSDAYS - 1.20-1.50pm

## SEPTEMBER

15.09.22 - L4:  
Presentation on  
French food, life and  
culture from year 8  
students

22.09.22 - L4:  
Why Study MFL  
languages?

29.09.22 - C3:  
Escape Room –  
Escape from Paris

## OCTOBER

06.10.22 – C2:  
Create and play  
revision games to help  
you remember French  
vocabulary.

13.10.22 - L4:  
French  
Cultural/History Quiz

20.10.22 – C3:  
Escape Room –  
Escape from Versailles

27.10.22 - L4:  
Guest speaker

## NOVEMBER

03.11.22 - L4:  
Investigate facts about  
France part 1.

10.11.22 - L4:  
Learn a language  
through the  
enjoyment of stories -  
The tale of Cendrillon  
(Cinderella)

17.10.22 – C3  
Escape Room –  
French Revolution

24.11.22 - L4:  
Guest speaker

# Tales of Teacher Travels

Mr Kirkbride,  
Principal  
interviewed  
by Poppy Gryman  
(year 9)



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

100%. I still remember a lady laughing at my attempts at French in the Alps, so much so that she gave my two boys sweets after we had finished 'speaking'. I have similar examples of my times in Spain, but for some reason this one stuck with me (I was asking for a specific type of data cable). As humans, we all want to find common ground and ways to connect. Language is one of the most fundamental ways in which we can connect. By attempting a local language, I think that we make people feel valued and present ourselves as approachable.

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

Yes, I had many interesting experiences in Asia, as well as some of the experiences in France and Spain. There are too many to detail here but would be worth discussing.

**What is your favourite foreign country and why?**

Easy. Spain, the people. I've never come across so many welcoming, warm and interesting people. My times in France, Italy, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Germany have all been great, but I have an affection for Spain and its people which I think would be difficult to beat.

**What is your favourite foreign food/drink?**

Beziers steak and chips was unreal. Not sure I will ever have a better meal. I had a glass of Elderflower and Mint in a random café in the foot of the Alps, definitely the best drink I've ever had.

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

This one is a bit of a boring response. I would choose Great Britain/UK. I love where I live (Devon), being able to travel to The Lakes, Highlands, Cornish beaches and the Houses of Parliament is something that most people on the planet would die for. However, it is only special, in part, because we are lucky enough to be able to travel to amazing places on the continent, and beyond.

**Do you speak another language?**

No, it is literally one of my biggest regrets, alongside not ever learning to play the piano. I learnt a bit of Malay and Chinese/Mandarin, when I was younger. However, I'm not sure that I can remember any of it after so long. I can code in 3 programming languages though (not sure if they count as languages)!!

**Do you speak another language at home?**

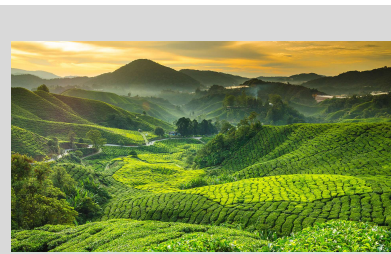
No, although I work through my son's Spanish homework with him and dabble in Spanish and French when on holiday.

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

My dad lives in Malaysia. I spent 3 months in Malaysia when I was around 20 and picked up a lot of Mandarin / Malay (I also had several other visits).

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

We try to have at least a week away each year (my wife also works in education, so term times are very busy for us as a family). Until this year, we have always visited Spain and France, it will be my first ever trip to Greece this year. Until the pandemic, we were making good use of our van, driving around both France and Spain. One of my favourite ever experiences had our accidental arrival to Beziers, at the time of their annual Feria de Béziers (we didn't look into the bull fighting but loved the way the community pulled together – such a diverse mix). It was enlightening, and such a different experience to anything I had ever been part of.



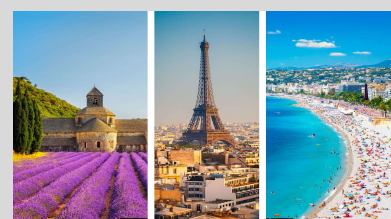
Malaysia



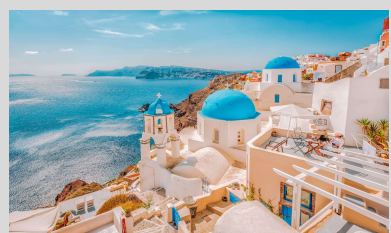
Malaysia



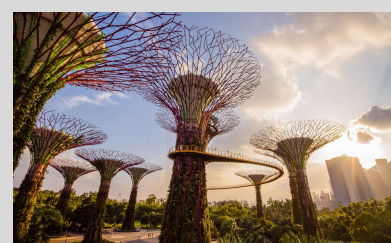
Spain



France



Greece



Spain



Italy



## Quick Revision Tip

Learning vocabulary is one of the most important ways to revise. We suggest making flash cards – print out a blank table from Word and cut out the rectangles. Write the French on one side and the English on the other.

## Why Learn a Language?

It improves your memory. The more you use your brain to learn new skills, the more your brain's functions work. Learning a new language pushes your brain to get familiar with new grammar and vocabulary rules. It allows you to train your memory to remember new words, make connections between them, and use them in contextual situations.

## Resource of the month

Duolingo. This game-like app teaches languages in a very playful and challenging way and is based on many visual as well as audio effects which are helpful to remember what you have learned. Another plus is that Duolingo varies the types of tasks and builds up every lesson in other ways which means more variety for the student.

## MFL at HCC



Learning another language is a necessary part of being a member of a multi-cultural society and provides an insight into other cultures. Lack of integration is a real problem for many countries and more often than not it is due to the language barrier. Learning another language opens up the opportunity to be part of a community with a different culture.

At HCC, we provide a high quality languages education that fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. Our aim is to broaden pupils' horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries. We encourage pupils to deepen their understanding of the world around them so they become more confident to travel the world and explore other people's ways of living.

MFL lessons enable children to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It provides opportunities for pupils to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language



### Our MFL curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- use language skills for communication in the real world, for practical purposes, for their immediate needs, interest and beyond and to express and justify opinions
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.
- develop their confidence and autonomy to access new and unfamiliar language through use of decoding skills brought about by the teaching of phonics and sound patterns
- work towards becoming a fluent and spontaneous speaker of the foreign language



# Information for parents

## How can I best support my child in French?



**Helping your child effectively doesn't mean having to know French.** It means implementing routines and habits that will help your child tackle homework, study effectively, and succeed academically.

1. **Take an interest** in what your child is doing and show that you value what they are learning.
2. **Provide a regular study time** away from television and other electronic distractions.
3. **Give guidance, but not answers.** Test your child on new vocabulary and then ask your child to self-assess to find out which words need further revision. Remind your child to proof read and double check written work multiple times for correct spelling, accents and word order. Encourage pattern spotting.
4. **Celebrate success** by pointing out that it came from hard work (anyone can work hard), not from intelligence (reserved for the fortunate few).
5. **Work along with your child**, whether it is by reading something for work, or by catching up on your emails—having a parent close by makes homework feel less like punishment and more like a team effort.
6. **Have them teach you something.** Ask them to translate words, instructions or directions for you. What does this question mean? Being able to have a skill that their parent doesn't is a major boost for students, helping them tap into their motivation.

Failure is a stepping stone to success

Make learning an activity your child loves

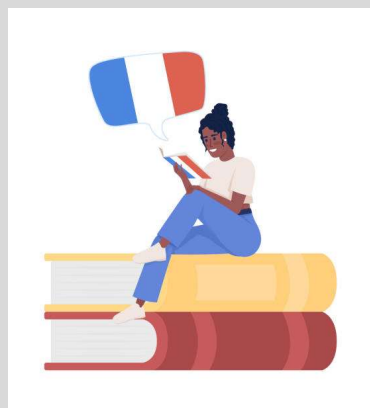
Involve games in learning as much as possible

Spot similarities and differences with English



<https://www.oxfordlearning.com/how-do-i-help-my-child-in-french-when-i-dont-speak-it/>

## What are the expectations of my child in French?



The course is 4 hours a fortnight for KS3 and 5 hours a fortnight for KS4.

Homework is set frequently. Homework will often focus on learning vocabulary or grammar, and it is important that students see this as essential homework. It may also be a written or comprehension activity. Students must also spend time each week practising speaking French and answering French questions covered in class. This will play a big part in success at GCSE as it is a key component of GCSE revision.

Students' written work is marked carefully ensuring that appropriate feedback is provided with the purpose of enabling the student to improve their work and their understanding of the subject. We purposely identify the type of error rather than simply writing in the correction.

<https://www.chsg.org.uk/page/?title=French+KS3&pid=665>

# French Travel Tips

**The food and wine will be a highlight of your trip so try everything.**

The food and wine will be a highlight of your trip, so try everything! When it comes to top France travel tips, this may be the tastiest one.

From the wine to the cheese to the bread and pastries to all the local specialties and more, France is a foodie's dream.

Hit up the farmers' markets, restaurants who source fare locally, specialty shops and anything else that catches your eye.

If you visit in the spring or early summer, the strawberries and cherries are incredible!

**The emergency phone number is 112.**

In Europe, 112 is the equivalent of 911, so commit it to memory.

It works from a cell phone, landline, and public payphone.

Specific to France, you'd dial 15 for a medical emergency, 17 for the police, and 18 for the fire department.

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

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

<http://www.freepubquiz.co.uk/france-quiz.html>



## France Quiz Questions

1. In which region is the city of Rouen?
2. What is the name of the river that flows through Rouen?
3. Where was Victor Hugo (French poet, novelist) born?
4. What is the round traditional brioche-cake from the French region of Alsace called?
5. What is the nickname given to the city of Toulouse?
6. Pick the correct answer: a) beacoup b) beaucoup c) beaucop
7. What is the first name of president Macron?
8. Which French newspaper's title translates to 'The World' in English?
9. What was written in 1792 by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle in Strasbourg?
10. Which French President formally opened the Channel Tunnel with Queen Elizabeth II?
11. What do the French call The English Channel?
12. The Chablis region is the northernmost wine district of the which French region?
13. What title was given to the heir apparent to the throne of France from 1350 to 1791?
14. Which city advertises itself as the 'Capital of the Alps', due to its size and its proximity to the mountain range?

## Winner of the Summer Challenge



Over the summer holiday, students from years 7-10 were invited to provide a translation of this French poem by Francis Jammes, which was set to music by Lili Boulanger.

We had a brilliant response and 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 translating from French to English. This was a challenging exercise, and a significant achievement..

The winner was **Poppy Gryman** in Year 9! Well done Poppy!

# Fun Fact about France

## September In France

September in France is one of the best times to visit. Having far fewer crowds and comfortable temperatures throughout the month. September is full of events, festivals, and concerts. La Rentrée (the return to work, school and normality after the summer holidays) means fewer people around.

It's a time of renewed energy and enthusiasm in France and there's lots going on...

### Journées Européennes du Patrimoine

European Heritage days 17th/18th Sep - Across the whole country, hundreds of historical buildings, monuments and places of interest, some which are normally closed, open their doors to the public.

### Cognac, Coup de Chauffe

Street artists and performers entertain the crowds for 3 days in this lively festival.

### Nord Pas de-Calais Lille/Braderie de Lille

The biggest flea market in Europe. A non-stop 33hr marathon flea market involving 10,000 sellers. The other big tradition of this fun weekend is to eat a dish of 'moules-frites' (mussels and chips) as restaurants compete to build the highest pile of empty shells!

By Poppy Gryman Y9

## September MFL Competition

### International Day of Languages Poster Competition

To celebrate language learning, students from year 7-10 are invited to design a poster about **another European country they would like to visit or have visited before**. Pupils should design their own poster, using, if they wish, a variety of materials and languages!

The poster should tell us which country it is and some facts about it e.g. language spoken, food, music, famous landmarks etc. – the more the better!

Entries can be submitted in any foreign language or languages and may include some English if desired (for example, pupils may like to provide a translation of the facts they provide). Each poster should be no larger than a sheet of A4 paper and must be completed by hand but any form of materials can be used – felt tips, paint, fabric etc. Judges will be looking for originality of illustration as well as accuracy of language and content



# 10

# REASONS TO STUDY LANGUAGES



## 1. CONNECTIONS

Being able to communicate with someone in his or her language is an incredible gift. Bilinguals have the unique opportunity to communicate with a wider range of people in their personal and professional lives.

## 2. CONFIDENCE

Learning a language means putting yourself out there and moving out of your comfort zone. Boosting your confidence and generating an amazing sense of accomplishment when conversing with someone in their native language.

## 3. CAREER ADVANCES

Language skills can really help your CV to stand out from the crowd. It is one of the most important things employers look for.



## 4. PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Language Learning boosts your memory and your logical faculties, which are directly linked to your problem-solving skills this means that language learning helps you recall information faster and identify problems more quickly.

## 5. BOOST YOUR BRAIN

The language center of the brain is so flexible, learning a second language could help develop new areas of your mind and strengthen your brain's natural ability to focus.

## 6. MAKING FRIENDS

Language is a vital part of human connection. Being able to speak multiple languages means you can befriend people from different cultures and expand your friendship circle.

## 7. CONNECT WITH OTHER CULTURES

Communicating with other languages helps you to appreciate the traditions, religions, arts, and history of other cultures encourages understanding, promoting greater bonds of empathy and acceptance of others.

## 8. EXPLORE YOUR OWN CITY

Many cities have different cultural pockets for different ethnicities to congregate. Now you can check out what they have to offer and interact with them on a more personal level with people

## 9. SEE NEW PLACES

Travelling as a speaker of the local language can revolutionise your trip abroad. Language to navigate outside the tourist bubble and interact with the place and its people.

## 10. SCHOLARSHIPS

If you're looking to pursue any form of study abroad, many universities of merit offer scholarships to individuals who are fluent in the languages of that country.



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# Language Leaders 2022-23

**Congratulations to our new MFL Language Leaders for 2022-23!**

The HCC Language Leader scheme utilises pupil-to-pupil influence in order to encourage interest in languages across the entire school.

In July 2022, students from across all year groups were invited to apply to become a Language Leader.

Applications were carefully reviewed and 16 pupils were chosen.

Over the course of the coming year, the Language Leaders will be trained to organise language related events and activities in areas that they are passionate about.

Congratulations to all students who were successful in their application to become a Language Leader and thank you in advance for all your hard work and dedication!

Merci, gratias, dziekuje, grazie, go raibh mile maith agaibh, thank you!.

## 5 WORK SKILLS LANGUAGES WILL GIVE YOU

- 1 COMMUNICATION**  
LEARNING A LANGUAGE ALLOWS YOU TO BETTER UNDERSTAND SOMEONE'S CULTURE AND AS A RESULT, THEIR POINT OF VIEW. COMBINE THIS WITH YOUR NEW ABILITY TO ANALYSE SITUATIONS AND SOLVE PROBLEMS, YOU WILL BUILD GREAT RELATIONSHIPS WHEREVER YOU WORK.
- 2 CRITICAL THINKING**  
LANGUAGES HELP IMPROVE YOUR DECISION MAKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS. IMPROVING YOUR ABILITY TO THINK ANALYTICALLY SO NOT ONLY WILL YOU LAND YOUR DREAM JOB, BUT YOU'LL BECOME A MASTER AT DECIDING WHERE TO EAT.
- 3 OPPORTUNITIES**  
NOT ONLY CAN A SECOND LANGUAGE IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING CERTAIN JOBS, IT CAN LEAD TO JOBS YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EXISTED. WHEN YOU SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE YOU MEET LOTS OF NEW PEOPLE, EXPERIENCE NEW CULTURES AND EXPLORE NEW COUNTRIES.
- 4 ADAPTABILITY**  
THE ABILITY TO SKIP BETWEEN LANGUAGES ALSO IMPROVES YOUR ABILITY TO SKIP BETWEEN TASKS. BEING BILINGUAL INCREASES BRAIN FUNCTION, IMPROVES MEMORY AND MAKES IT EASIER TO MULTI-TASK AND PRIORITISE INFORMATION.
- 5 CREATIVITY**  
WHEN YOU LEARN A SECOND LANGUAGE, YOU ARE OPENED UP TO NEW IDEAS AND WAYS OF DOING THINGS. THIS NEW ABILITY TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX WILL IMPROVE YOUR CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY OF YOUR IDEAS.

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**Language skills can be the career gift that keeps on giving: Being able to speak, explain, and negotiate in another language makes you more employable, increases your confidence, and can lead to a higher salary.**

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