

# MFL NEWSLETTER

Honiton Community College • October 2022 • Issue 11

## Welcome



Welcome to the eleventh 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

### 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

### 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

### DECEMBER

- 01.12.22 - L4:  
Investigate facts about France part 2.
- 08.12.22 - L4:  
Learn about Christmas traditions in France and across the world. Craft activities.
- 15.12.22 – L4  
Guest speaker

# Tales of Teacher Travels



Miss Barrett,  
Food Tech  
interviewed  
by Isabelle Carrison  
(year 9)

**Do you speak another language?**

No I don't really, just a smattering of French.

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

I speak fluent toddler with my daughter!

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

I haven't lived abroad but I have travelled round Australia, South Africa and New Zealand and spent a month in each country.

**Do you often travel to other countries for holidays?**

I like to visit Europe and especially France.

**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?**

Yes, I try and speak some French but I have a really poor French accent, but I am sure they appreciate the effort I make.

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

South Africa had a lot of cultural differences. For example, instead of a BBQ it is a Brai which consists of mainly meat based products. Food is eaten much later in south Africa, normally around 9/10pm. It has a relaxed culture feeling to it.

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

New Zealand as it has beautiful landscape and scenery.

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

I love Lebanese food!

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

New Zealand, it's so beautiful!



New Zealand



New Zealand



Australia



Australia



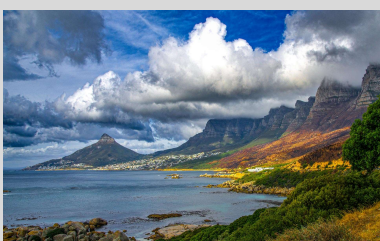
Australia



Australia



South Africa



South Africa



South Africa



# French Cities To Visit



By Poppy Gryman - year 9

## Marseille

Dating back to 600 BC, this is officially the oldest city in France. Situated on the Med's coast, it's strategic location and turmoil past make Marseille one of the most interesting cities and was designated a European capital of culture.

## Bordeaux

If wine, shopping or gourmet cuisine are your thing, the elegant and sophisticated Bordeaux is for you. In south westerly France on the Atlantic coast, Bordeaux boasts numerous historical monuments and has a history of wine culture since Roman times.

## Rouen

One of the most important cities in Medieval Europe, a living and breathing museum on the banks of the Seine. Located about 80 miles northwest of Paris, a vibrant Norman capital dominated by the cathedral, dating back to 1030 and being 151 meters high!

## Biarritz

A beautiful city located in the Bay of Biscay, on the southwest Atlantic coast, famous for its luxurious seaside destination, the Hôtel du Palais, and its surfing culture. Biarritz has a very different feel to other French cities, being more laid back and well known for its rugby team, Biarritz Olympique.

## OCTOBER MFL COMPETITION

### Challenging Cultural Stereotypes poster

Choose a European country and research the common stereotypes associated with this country.

Make a poster that challenges these stereotypes and informs students on which information is correct and which is completely wrong.

Your poster must be A4. It can be handwritten or typed.

Deadline: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November



# Cultural stereotypes



Germany



Italy



Spanish



American



## What is a stereotype?

An often unfair and untrue belief that many people have about all people or things with a particular characteristic.

## Did you know?

Here is how England and English people are often perceived abroad by people who have never visited England:

1. England is always a wet, rainy and soggy country.
2. It is always foggy in London.
3. English men always wear a bowler hat.
4. The English can't speak another language.
5. The English have a 'stiff upper lip' (= fighting spirit) and will never show emotion even in the hardest situation.
6. The English only drink tea.
7. The English eat roast beef all the time.
8. English police always have a tall hat, a bicycle and helps old ladies cross the street.
9. The car that the English all own is a Mini.
10. All English buses are red double decker buses.
11. The English are not very friendly.
12. The English are all posh and well mannered.
13. The English always have afternoon tea and wear cocktail dresses.



# CHALLENGING CULTURAL STEREOTYPES

Generalizations become stereotypes when all members of a group are categorized as having the same characteristics.

Stereotypes can be linked to any type of cultural membership, such as nationality, religion, gender, race, or age. Also, stereotypes may be positive or negative. For example, a positive stereotype would be "People from Country Y are hardworking"

Stereotypes, however, tend to be more negative than generalizations. Also, they are typically inflexible and resistant to new information.

**Stereotypes can, and often do, lead to prejudice and intentional or unintentional discrimination.**

A negative stereotype may be "People from Country A are superficial."

Cultural stereotypes do not allow for individual difference and interfere with efforts to understand others.

<https://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/culture-trek/culture-points/what-are-generalizations-and-stereotypes/>

Email your answers to MTH:  
One P1 for taking part  
Two P1 if 100% correct



## French Stereotypes Quiz Questions - True or false?

- 1) French people wear berets and striped shirts
- 2) French people are dirty
- 3) French people are rude
- 4) French people eat a lot of baguette
- 5) French people smoke like chimneys
- 6) French people drink wine all the time
- 7) French people eat a lot of cheese
- 8) French people are cowards
- 9) French people are lazy
- 10) French people only listen to accordion music
- 11) French people wear berets
- 12) French people don't shave
- 13) French people all have poodles
- 14) French people all eat gourmet meals
- 15) French people can't or won't speak English
- 16) French people eat frogs legs a lot
- 17) French people eat snails every day



## Why is stereotyping wrong?

Cultural stereotyping is wrong because:

- It can lead to people getting the blame for something that someone else did
- People can feel anxious, worried or upset because of the way they are treated
- The victim can feel isolated
- Someone can be verbally abused or physically attacked, sometimes with serious consequences

## What should we do?

- Show kindness and respect to everyone around us
- Listen to people
- Give everyone equal opportunities
- Value and appreciate everyone's differences
- Take the time to get to know someone
- Don't make assumptions about people
- Say no to prejudice
- Learn about other cultures and traditions
- Adapt our words and actions to be more sensitive to others
- Challenge cultural stereotyping if we see or hear it happen

# FRENCH TRAVEL TIPS

**There is no dress code.** Yes, the French wear trainers and shorts. No, not everyone is a fashion maven. For everyday sightseeing, wear what you're comfortable and confident wearing.

No one is secretly judging you for your fashion choices. When out and about, you'll see people dressed in a variety of styles. (Just no sweatpants in public, unless you're working out, that is.)

If you want to come off as more French and blend in better, think casual sneakers instead of athletic shoes, muted, neutral colours and slightly dressier clothing options than maybe you'd wear at home. Add a dressy scarf, belt, or blazer to a casual outfit if you feel like it. But there's no rule on this. Never walk around with your shirt off though unless you're at the beach!

## The French are friendly and polite.

Despite what you may have heard, the French are not rude monsters! Someone might have a bad day, but generally the French are friendly and happy to help out a lost tourist. Just make sure you say 'bonjour' before any interaction.

# WINNER OF THE MFL SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

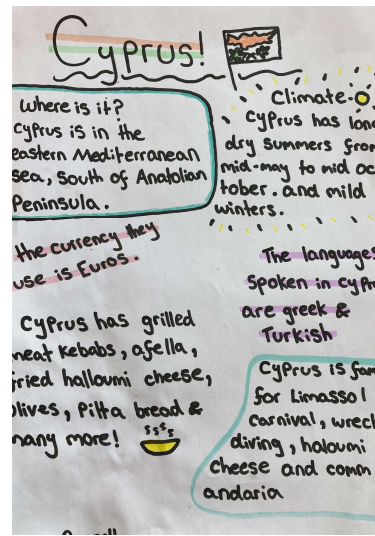


Riley

KS3 Students were asked to design a poster about another European country they would like to visit or have visited before.



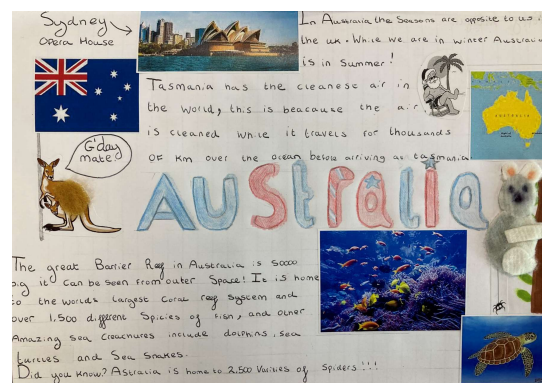
Poppy



Hallie

The quality of students' work was incredible.

Well done to all who took part and congratulations to Riley in year 7 for winning the competition!



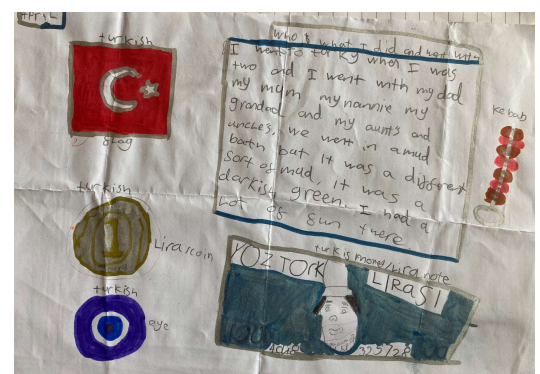
Poppy



Thomas



Holly

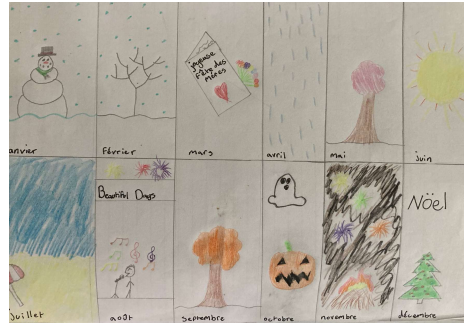


April

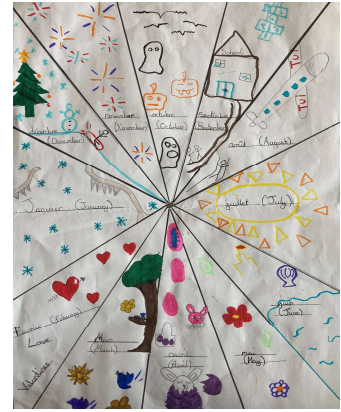


# OUTSTANDING STUDENT WORK

Year 7 students have been learning about months of the year.



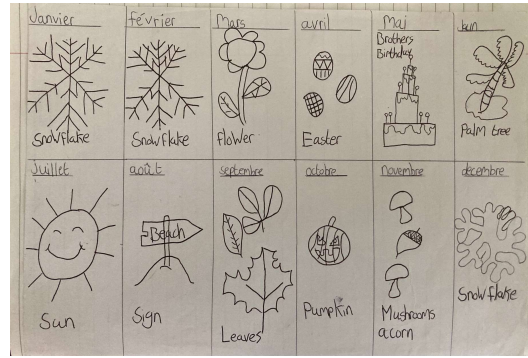
Elowen



Grace



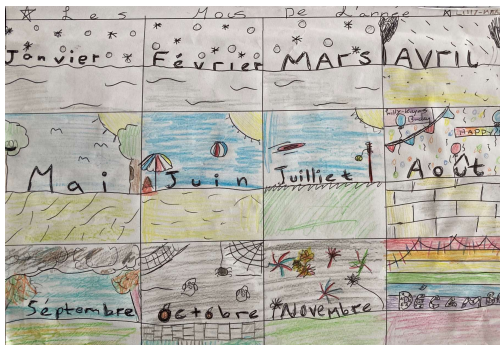
Crystal



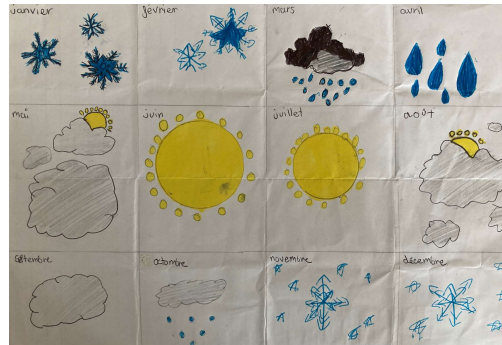
George



Harry



Lily-Kaye



Roksana



Martha



Holly



Sasha



Jessica



Lily



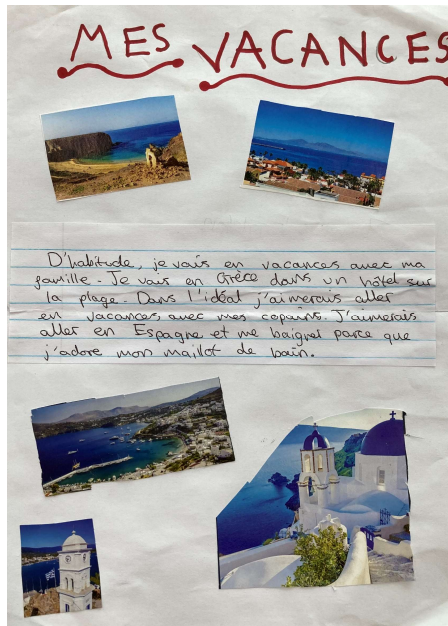
Lydia



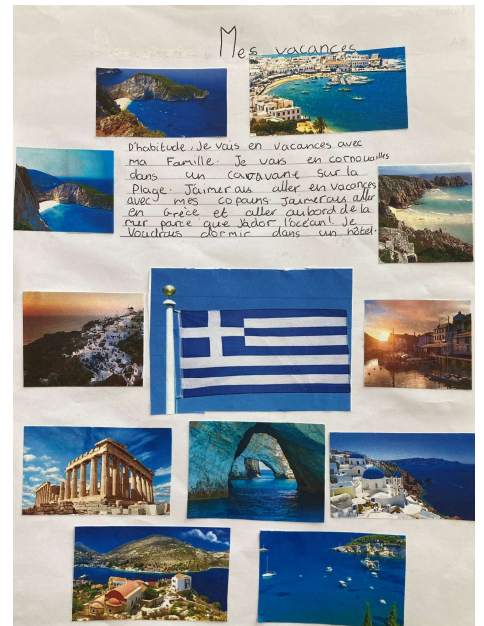
Phoebe



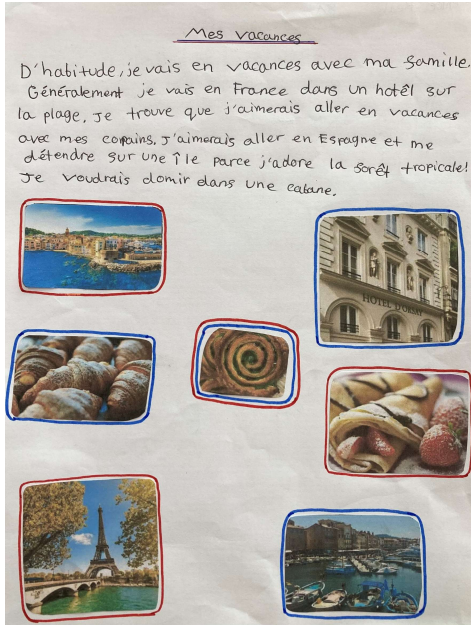
# OUTSTANDING STUDENT WORK



Thomas

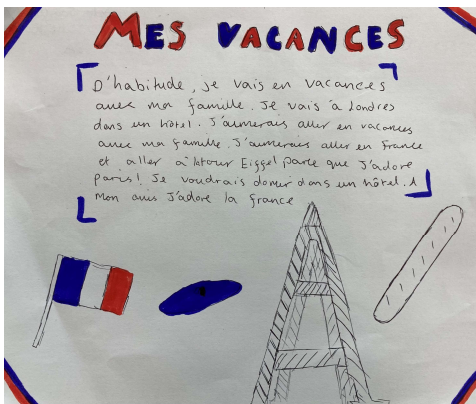


Isabel

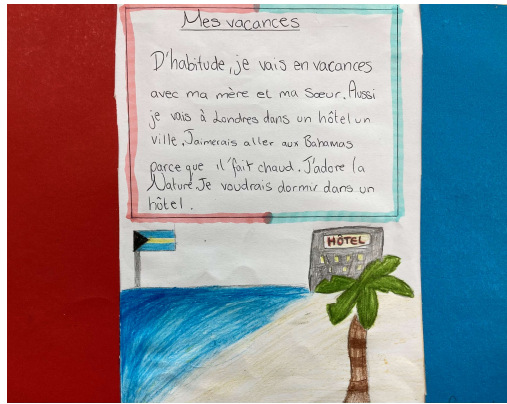


Chloe

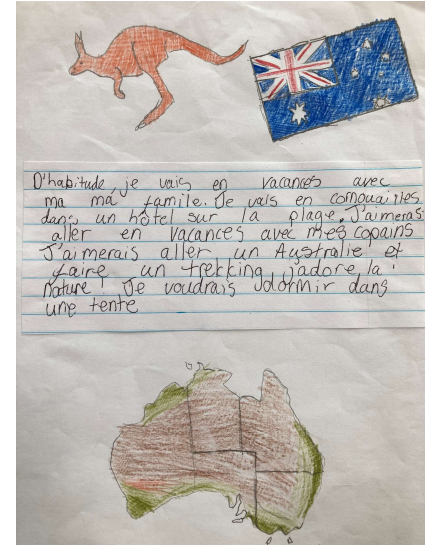
Year 8 students have been learning about how to describe usual holidays and dream destinations.



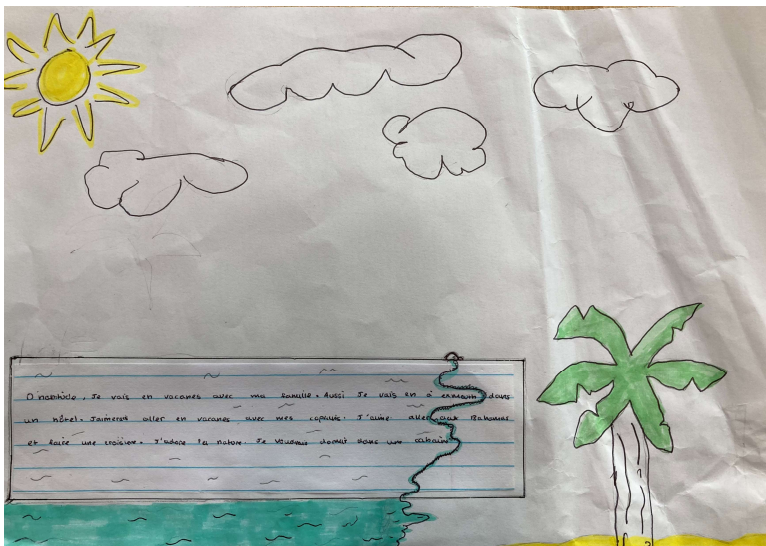
Scarlett



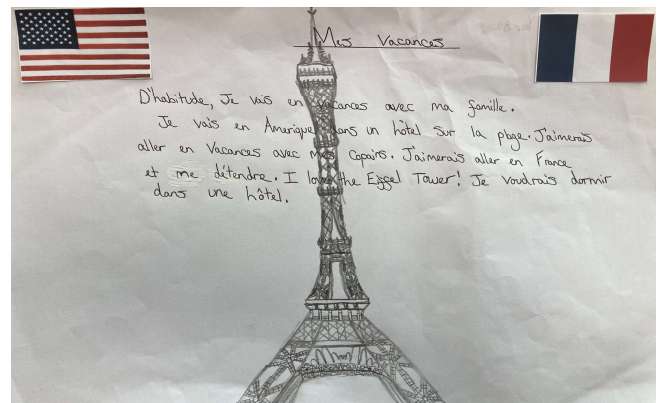
Casey



Harry



Devon



Ellie



# 10 TIPS

## IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS



### 1. COMMITMENT

Make time every day to practice your chosen language, with more practice, you'll naturally get faster as the language becomes more familiar to you.



### 2. GO TO WHERE THE LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN

If you are serious about learning the language and getting direct pleasure from what you have learned, you need to go to where that language is spoken.



### 3. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION

Translation helps you to get over certain plateaus that you will reach as a language learner, forcing you onto the next level.

### 4. REMIND YOURSELF WHY YOU ARE LEARNING

Motivation is usually the first thing to go. Create a list of reasons why you are learning, refer back to it when feeling demotivated.

### 5. TALK OUT LOUD

Talking out loud helps to build confidence. The more you talk, the more you will get used to putting yourself out there.



### 6. MAKE REALISTIC, SPECIFIC GOALS

Language learning is best when broken down into manageable goals that are achievable over a few months. This is far more motivating and realistic.



### 7. FOCUS ON EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT TO LEARN

Make a plan for what you want to practise each day and whether that is through speaking, reading, listening or writing.

### 8. READ FOR PLEASURE

Reading exposes you to all sorts of vocabulary that you won't find in day-to-day life and normalises otherwise baffling and complicated grammatical structures.



### 9. MASTER YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE

Understanding your native language and just generally how language works is so essential before you launch yourself into different situations.



### 10. BEWARE OF FLUENCY

Language learning never stops. Cultural learning, grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation all offer endless opportunities for personal growth.



# QUICK REVISION TIPS

## Don't leave your exam practice until the last minute!

Your brain needs time to create the neural pathways to store the new information. Practise every day: Speaking and writing the new structures and vocabulary daily. The more you practice, the easier the words will roll off your tongue in the exam. Use mini habits or a five minute revision challenge to turn this daily practise into a regular habit.

## The Five Minute Revision Challenge!

Imagine the effect on your grades if you revised for 5 minutes per day every day. That would mean revising for:

- 35 minutes per week
- 150 minutes per month (2.5 hours)
- Approximately 1,050 minutes in the seven months until exams begin (17.5 hours)

The impact of adding five minutes of revision to your daily life between now and your exams would be huge. There would be *so much* that you had committed to memory before you even started thinking seriously about revision. How much easier would that make your life in exam season? How much would it improve your grades by?

<https://lifemoreextraordinary.com/revision/five-minute-revision-challenge/>



# LAWYER

Aside from the obvious benefit that legal professionals with an additional language are able to communicate more widely, having this important sub-discipline also shows a candidate's willingness to work hard to boost their employability.



The ability to deploy your language skills also shows that you can work on a greater range of projects, which can lead to a higher salary.



As well as increasing employment prospects, speaking a second language opens up more opportunities for candidates to work and live abroad. This is an excellent way for young lawyers to cut their teeth and gain experience in the legal profession. International law is also an interesting specialism.



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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.