

MFL NEWSLETTER

Honiton Community College • December 2022 • Issue 13

Welcome



Welcome to the thirteenth 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

DECEMBER

- 01.12.22 – C2:
Investigate facts about France part 2
- 08.12.22 - L4:
French Christmas Kahoot
- 15.10.22 – C3:
Guest Speaker

JANUARY

- 05.01.23 - L4:
Learn about how the French celebrate Epiphany - La fête des Rois
- 12.01.23 - L4:
Poem writing – Mother Tongue, Other Tongue
- 17.10.22 – C3
Learn about Chinese New Year. Practice calligraphy, Listen to Chinese music
- 24.11.22 – L4:
Introduction to Spanish

FEBRUARY

- 02.02.23 – L4
Short French Film
- 09.02.23 – L4
Make a Valentine's Day Card, write poems, decorate cookies, quiz on how people celebrate Valentine's Day in different ways around the world.
- 16.02.23 – L4
Guest Speaker
- 23.02.23 – L4
Pancake making to celebrate Shrove Tuesday

Tales of Staff Travels



Mrs Theeten
(MFL teacher)

Do you speak another language?

I speak fluent French and learned Italian, German and some Spanish a long time ago.

Do you speak another language at home?

My husband is French and I lived in France for most of my life until I went to university. Although my husband speaks fluent English, we have made the decision to only speak French at home so that our children are raised to be bi-lingual.

Have you ever lived abroad? How long for?

Yes, when I was 3 years old, my family moved to China and then to Hong Kong. I went to a Chinese school for a few years and could both understand and speak Chinese when we left the country at age 5. Sadly, I never continued to learn the language so have forgotten nearly everything I knew. I'd really love to take up learning Chinese again one day! When I was 7, my parents moved us to France where I lived until I was 18. I went to school there and very quickly French became the language I spoke the most. My parents insisted on English being spoken at home however. During my time at university, I spend a year abroad in Reunion Island (Indian Ocean) which was amazing. One day I saw a river of lava from erupting volcano Piton de la Fournaise descend the mountain just meters in front of me. The scenery in Reunion Island is breath-taking with great beaches, mountain hiking and tropical forests. As a young adult, I also spent quite a few months being an au-pair in Italy.

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

I try to travel as often as possible although there are still many countries I have yet to visit. I particularly loved my time around South East Asia. Angkor Wat in Cambodia is incredible and seeing first hand an elephant sanctuary in Laos plus getting to ride one was lots of fun. In a remote area in the North of Vietnam, we hiked through breath-taking mountains, beautiful rice fields and amazing waterfalls. We stayed with locals from the Red Dao tribe who specialise in herbal medicine. It really took me out of my comfort zone. In the South of Vietnam, they have floating river markets too which is so different to what we are used to here.

When on holiday abroad, do you make the effort to speak a few words in the language?

I always try to learn a few words and phrases when travelling abroad. Most people

appreciate that you're trying to speak their language. It is a sign of respect and knowing a few phrases really helps you get around places and makes travel so much easier and fun. It's concerning to see tourists trying to communicate with people who don't speak any English, by speaking more English. Turning up the volume and speaking English more loudly won't help locals understand you better. When travelling, we are guests abroad so it's up to us to make an effort, not the other way round. Travelling should be more about forming new experiences and making new connections than about ignorance and entitlement.

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

Yes, frequently. In Asia, greetings don't involve direct physical contact so it's really not considered polite to shake someone's hand. Smiling, nodding and saying hello is much more acceptable. Also, when giving gifts to a host who invites you to dinner, it's best to avoid flowers and alcohol. Many people don't drink and flower types and colours can convey specific messages. Attractively packaged sweets are a better bet!

In Europe, we eat only from our own plates but across most of Asia, people serve themselves at the table. This way, everyone takes exactly what they want (not too much or too little) and people get to try a variety of dishes. Mastering chopsticks instead of knives and forks can be a fun challenge!

What is your favourite foreign country?

Hiking in wild and remote areas like the Alps or the Pyrenees is what I love but I also find the historic architecture of many European cities very beautiful. Prague, Budapest, Rome, Venice, Florence, Sienna stand out in my mind. On a more sobering note, I was really taken aback travelling through Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and seeing the effects of the conflict there.

What is your favourite foreign food/drink?

I think Italian food is delicious. Made by Italians and eaten in Italy somehow makes it taste so much better.

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

I think it would be New Zealand. It's on my dream list of places to visit some day.



China



Hong Kong



France



Reunion Island



Cambodia



Bosnia

French facts:

Christmas greetings

French people wish each other *Joyeux Noël* or *Bonnes Fêtes*. It's important never to wish anyone a *Bonne Année* (Happy New Year) before midnight on New Year's Eve as this brings bad luck.

Christmas cards

There are typically few Christmas cards. Traditionally cards are sent to celebrate the New Year.

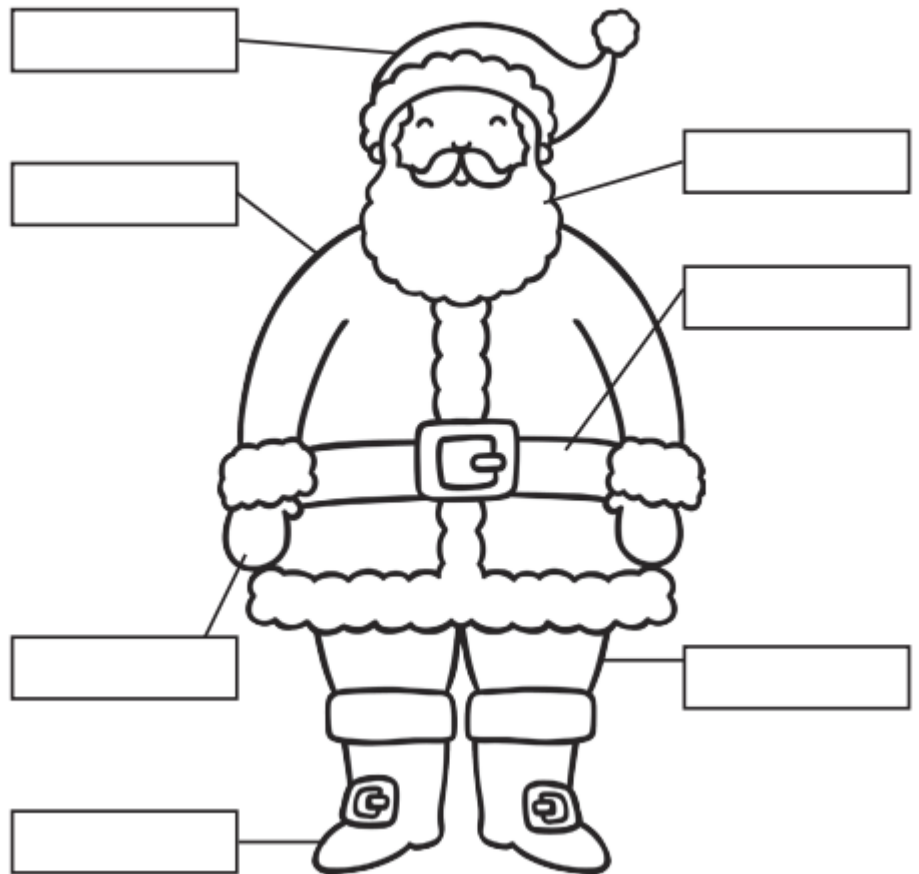
Christmas crackers

Christmas crackers were invented by Tom Smith in the 19th century as an inspiration from his visit to Paris. Apparently he saw the French '*bon bon*' sweets (almonds wrapped in pretty paper) and once he returned to London he started selling them with a small motto message inside. Then his sons added paper crowns and small gifts and they become really popular in England. Sadly, crackers have never become part of French Christmas traditions.



Christmas Quiz - label the clothes correctly then screen shot and submit to MTH. P1 for taking part. P2 if 100% correct.

Les Parties du Père Noël



Découpe les mots ci-dessous et colle-les dans les cases qui correspondent. Puis, colorie le Père-Noël.

le manteau	la barbe	le chapeau	la ceinture
les bottes	les gants	le pantalon	

Christmas in France

<https://www.expatica.com/fr/lifestyle/holidays/christmas-in-france-871680/>



Advent in France

The four weeks before Christmas are dedicated to preparations for Christmas. On 1st December children open their first 'window/door' in the Advent calendar.

Midnight Mass

A church service is held on Christmas Eve. It is actually an important Christmas tradition in France for many people who try to attend the mass, although more and more people prefer services on Christmas Day.

Le Réveillon

This is the name of the French Christmas Eve meal, which is a big and long feast. The name comes from the verb *réveiller*, to wake up or revive.

Traditional French Christmas food

Food is a big part of French Christmas traditions and can include smoked salmon and oysters with bran bread and (real) butter, foie gras (goose or duck liver pâté), goose, capon or turkey stuffed with chestnuts, servings of vegetables such as green beans cooked with garlic and butter and provincial herbs sautéed potatoes. To finish the feast you will get the amazing looking and tasting *La bûche de Noël* (yule log), a sponge cake decorated like a yule log, traditionally made of chocolate and chestnuts.

Table decoration

It is very important for French people to have their Christmas dining table looking extremely elegant and inviting. It's common to put three candlesticks on the table, which represent the Trinity.

Shoes in front of The fireplace

French children put their shoes near the fireplace so that Père Noël can find them and fill them with small presents or treats.

Le Père Fouettard

Father Spanker is the partner and helper of Saint Nicolas. He decides if each kid behaved good or bad. He is the one who does the 'spanking' to bad behaving children.

Santons de Noël

These are the nativity scenes or *crèches* displayed in many French homes. There are little clay figures called *santons* or little saints in the *crèche*, which you can buy from Christmas markets. There are plenty of pieces available for sale so you can create a small or huge *crèche* at home.

Crèche Vivante/ Pessebres

These are the nativity scene shows that are very popular particularly in the south west of France. They are performed at various times during the Christmas season.

November Competition Winner



Congratulations to Rowan Ryerson in year 7 who won the MFL Christmas Card competition this year!

The feast of Lucia (Luciafesten) is a Swedish Christmas tradition where the eldest daughter dresses in a white dress with a red sash and a wreath with seven or eight candles on their head carrying a tray with buns and coffee for their family members. It is celebrated on the 13th December and sometimes instead of carrying a tray, they will carry a candle.

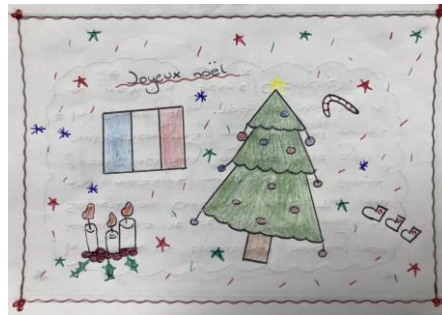
by Rowan Ryerson year 7



by Penelope Anning - year 9



by Floryn - year 9



The Yule cat is depicted in Icelandic folklore as a giant man-eating cat. However, she only eats children who did not receive any new clothes on Christmas eve. She is also accompanied by the thirteen Yule lads who fill up shoes with sweets or coal. Overarching all are the Yule lads mother and father. Their names are Grjúla and Leppaláði.

In English

In France a traditional holiday meal known as le réveillon de Noël is served on Christmas eve. The meal is massive with lots of french food including oysters, foie gras and escargots and lots of wine. In France they tend to display a nativity scene (C crèche).

Jólaötturinn er í Íslenshúm þjóðtrú keve Önn upp sem risastór manneskjaöttur. Þó borðar hún bara börn sem jengja engin ný föt á úðjagadagshvöld. Með henni eru þrettán jólasveinarnir sem fylla skó með sælgættum eða kolum. Ufur allt eru möður og faðir jólasveinanna. Nöfn þeirra eru Grjúla og Leppaláði.

In France they call christmas Noël. Children leave their shoes in front of the fireplace with the hopes Santa will fill them with gift and goodies overnight. At midnight French families celebrate christmas by attending church on

Runners-up

by Kiera - year 9



In Greece, they like to decorate boats as well as trees at Christmastime.

Merry Christmas!

Student voice



"Hi, my name is Poppy Gryman. I'm a year 9 student and a Language Leader.

Reasons why I like learning French are that it is a world wide language, it's fun to learn, and knowing how to speak just some French will help me get a job in the future.

Some revision tips I use are: using Kerboodle and Seneca, looking at all my books from School (testing myself) and spacing out my revision but also taking breaks."

Resource of the month

Duolingo is the most popular language learning platform and the most downloaded education app in the world. It makes education free, fun, and accessible to all. Duolingo is designed to feel like a game and scientifically proven to be effective.

MFL and Children in Need



To help raise money for Children in Need in November, Language Leaders organised a cake sale. Many brought in beautiful and delicious home baked cupcakes and cakes.

Pupils could also guess the number of sweets in a jar for a chance to win them all.

Well done to all involved!

December MFL competition

MOTHER TONGUE OTHER TONGUE

Mother Tongue: Pupils whose first language is not English, or who speak another language at home, are encouraged to submit a poem or song in their Mother Tongue.

This can be an original or a 'remembered' piece. It can be written in any language, except English.

Entries will be judged on a short paragraph in which pupils will explain the piece and its significance to them.

Other Tongue: Pupils learning another language are encouraged to get creative with their 'Other Tongue' and submit an original poem for the competition.

Entry deadline: Friday 13th January 2023



Revision ideas

Past papers

Past papers can be used to identify your weakest areas in the subject, but also your strongest ones so you know exactly what to revise.

When marking, use the mark scheme to its full potential!

Identifying your most common errors allows you to identify your weakest areas that you can focus on during your revision.

Podcasts

Listen to podcasts every evening, and read through the transcripts whilst listening to get a sense of how words are pronounced

Netflix/Films

Put subtitles in the language you are learning on your favourite shows.

Using the specification

It is so important that you know the structure, timing, and what type of questions could come up in your exams. Just look for your specification and it will tell you!

Revise vocabulary

I know, the list is daunting, the vocabulary you need to learn just seems endless but revise this vocab as often as possible, even learning it for 10 minutes a day is still making progress!

<https://getadapt.co.uk/blog/revision/how-to-revise-languages-gcse>

MFL CHALLENGE 2022-2023

- 1) Choose one of the two challenges below
- 2) Tick off tasks when accomplished
- 3) Show evidence to teacher to receive your certificate

BRITISH COUNCIL The Great Languages Challenge

Find out which of your teachers can speak the most languages

Watch a vlog in the language you are studying

Find out the nationalities of the players in your favourite sports team

List ten countries you would like to visit by the time you are 25 years old

Find out which language would be most helpful for your dream job

Write a short paragraph about a country where they speak the language you are studying that you would like to visit. Why would you like to visit it?

Learn how to write a phrase in a language that has a different script

Find out the names of this year's five most popular musicians or bands in China

Find out how many of the top 200 songs in the Spotify UK charts are in a language other than English. How about in the language you are studying?

Listen to a song in the language you are studying

Find out which is the world's most spoken language and list the countries where it is the official language

Learn the happy birthday song in the language you are studying

Practise the language you are studying on an app for 10 minutes

Find a video or cartoon on YouTube in the language you are studying and watch it

Find out how to say the following phrases in the language you are studying:

- Excuse me
- Could you repeat that?
- Thank you

Look at the labels on your clothes and work out which item was made furthest away

Teach your parent or guardian a phrase in the language you are studying

Learn ten new words in the language you are studying

To find more school and teacher resources, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources

BRITISH COUNCIL The Great French Language Challenge

Teach your parent or guardian a phrase in French

Find an app that allows you to practise French and learn five new words

Find out the names of four fashion designers who are from a French speaking country

Change your social media app settings into French for one hour

Find out the names of ten well-known sports players who are from French-speaking countries

Find out the capital cities of ten French speaking countries

Learn the 'happy birthday' song in French

List four well-known buildings or monuments that can be found in a French-speaking country

Write a short paragraph about a French speaking country you would like to visit and why

List five famous forests, coastlines or mountain ranges which are found in French-speaking countries

Find out about five famous scientists, artists, writers or explorers who are from countries where French is the official language

Listen to a song in French

Cook a dish from a French speaking country

Try a food item from a French-speaking country you have never tried before

List ten French words that have made it into the English language (e.g. chauffeur)

Find out how to say the following phrases in French:

- Excuse me
- Could you repeat that?
- See you later!

Take a look at the top 200 songs in the UK Spotify charts. Are there any songs that are sung in French?

Find a French language video or cartoon on YouTube and watch it

Find out how many countries have French as their official language

To find more school and teacher resources, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources

The background of the entire image is a stage with red curtains. Two spotlights are shining from the top corners, creating a bright area on the stage floor. The text is centered on the stage.

MFL TALENT FESTIVAL

Thursday 30th March – drama hall – lunchtime

You could perform a dance number to foreign music, read an international rap/song/poem/anthem, play a piece of music composed by a foreign composer, showcase photography skills of time spent abroad etc.

Email MTH for an application form.



WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?

INCREASE AWARENESS OF OTHER PEOPLE & CULTURES



TRANSFORMS YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCE



INCREASE EMPLOYABILITY

ADVANCE YOUR ENGLISH SKILLS BY LEARNING HOW LANGUAGES WORK

APPRECIATE INTERNATIONAL ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE



SEE THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

OPEN UP THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING & WORKING ABROAD



IT'S FUN



MFL Key Skills

Common skills gained from a modern languages degree include:

- The ability to communicate clearly in a foreign language, both verbally and in writing
- Professional communication, spoken and written
- Sensitivity to different cultural contexts
- The ability to work independently
- General research skills, including use of academic literature
- General IT skills
- Self-management, including planning and meeting deadlines
- Analysing written and visual sources
- Constructing and defending a coherent argument
- Approaching issues from multiple perspectives
- Self-reflection and critical judgment
- Adaptability and flexibility

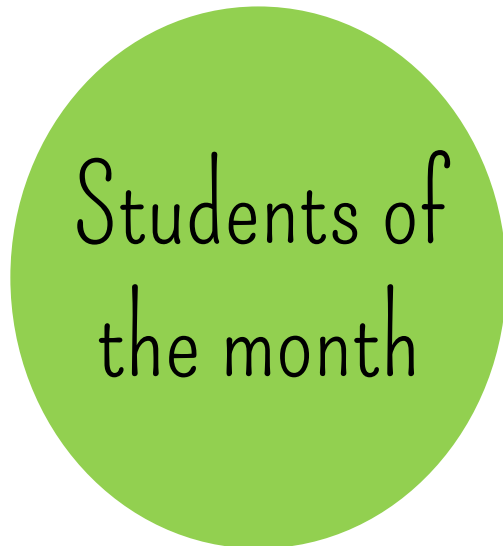
<https://www.topuniversities.com/courses/modern-languages/guide>



MANAGER

Being fluent more than one languages gives you an edge over monolingual candidates in job interviews. Opportunities to exploit your language skills exist in all companies and departments which range from marketing to tourism and more. It is hardly surprising that a lot of corporations require employees who are bilingual or multilingual.

Being able to speak a foreign language, and having experience with different cultures, positions employees for promotions, and higher level positions. Larger companies need managers who can travel overseas to close deals or oversee operations. Smaller companies need multilingual employees who can help explore new business opportunities in foreign countries and establish new operations overseas.



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 – April Abbey

Yr8 – Isabelle Ashworth

Yr9 – Penelope Anning

Yr10 – Charlie Hurford

Yr 11 – Ciara

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.