

## Pour commencer ... le français à Higham Lane 6<sup>th</sup> form (New/prospective Year 12)

A-Level Year 1 study will begin with the topic areas of *les media* and *le tourisme/l'héritage culturel*. Many year 12s feel that the start of their AS year is hard if they hadn't looked at anything to help them with French since finishing their GCSE.

**So! To help prepare for your studies we recommend the following:**

- 1- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) (Choose 'français' on the language list!)

This website has a large grammar section, which we recommend you work through, particularly the exercises for tenses. A good understanding of the tenses will give you a good, confident start to your AS course.

The site has an AS section with reading comprehensions on some of the topic areas you will study during the course of the year. You may find some of the exercises difficult at first. It is a good idea to have **a vocabulary book and make a note of words** that you looked up or think will be useful. It's also a good idea to get into the habit of writing the different genders in a different colour.

- 2- **The things that you enjoy doing as hobbies also exist in France!**

Young people listen to music, play sports, watch films, YouTube and use social networks. Why not mark some French things as favourites on your page to have some French information appear for you to practise little and often?

YouTube also has some fantastic explanation videos and songs to help with all sorts of grammar points and they are often much more interesting than a grammar book!

**Over the summer holidays, please complete the following tasks and bring them back to your class teachers in September:**

- 1) Watch 'Les Choristes' to familiarize yourself with the story, as you will be studying this film during the academic year. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjOX145zEkI>
- 2) Keep a diary of your summer holidays once a week about what has transpired that week in French. (see attached **journal writing** helpsheet)
- 3) Complete the grammar booklet to revise, consolidate your knowledge of grammar, tenses and sentence structures (PDF document attached).
- 4) Have a go at the more fun activities in French. They are not related to the A-Level course, but they are a good way of immersing you in the French culture, which is essential when studying a language. This should be fun!!!

**A half hour regularly and often during the holidays will help make a really good start to A-Level Year 1 study.**

# Journal Writing!

Want to write a diary entry in French? Here are some words and phrases to get you started!



## Beginning:

Quelques lignes pour te dire mes nouvelles: *A few lines to tell you about my news...*

Aujourd'hui a bien commencé mais mal fin: *Today started well but ended badly.*

Mon cher journal intime: *Dear Diary*

Bon...: *Well...*

Quelque chose est arrivé: *something happened*

*Using "Venir de + infinitive" - to just have done something...*

Je viens de..... :*I just...*

Je viens de rentrer chez moi: *I just returned home*

Je viens d'avoir de bonnes nouvelles: *I just had great news*

Je viens d'avoir de mauvaises nouvelles: *I just had bad news*

Je suis très triste parce que je viens d'apprendre que...: *I'm very sad because I just learned that...*

Mes parents viennent de me dire que.....: *My parents just told me that...*

## Happy:

Je suis ravi(e): *I am delighted*

Je suis baba: *I am flabbergasted/astounded*

Je suis aux anges: *I'm over the moon/beside myself*

C'est: *It is*

C'était: *It was*

Ce sera: *It will be*

Ce serait: *It would be*

Génial, chouette: *great, neat*

Sensass: *wicked, awesome*

Formidable: *terrific*

Le meilleur jamais: *the best ever*

Incroyable: *Incredible*

Ioubliable: *Unforgettable*

Je suis surexité(e)/enthousiaste: *I'm excited*

Higham Lane Sixth Form

## Useful fillers:

Il y a - *There is/ are*

Il y avait - *There was/were*

Il y aura - *There will be*

Il y aurait - *There would be*

Je me demande: *I wonder*

Il me tarde de/ d' + inf : *I'm looking forward to* (Il me tarde d'aller au concert en été)

Tout s'est bien passé... *Everything is going well*

Je l'attends avec impatience: *I can't wait*

Je ne vois pas le temps passer: *The time flies*

J'ai du mal y à croire! *I can hardly believe it!*

### **Sad:**

Je viens de fondre en larmes: *I just burst into tears*

J'ai fondu en larmes: *I burst into tears*

Je suis triste/ déçu(e): *I'm sad/disappointed*

Quelle deception! *What a disappointment!*

Je me sens si blessé(e) *I feel so hurt*

Ce n'est pas vrai: *It's not true*

Il faut que je fasse avec...: *I have to put up with...*

J'ai du mal à le comprendre: *I'm having trouble understanding*

Je le déteste: *I hate it*

Quelle honte: *What a shame*

Je me sens seul(e): *I feel alone*

### **Anger:**

Je suis fâché(e)/ en colère: *I'm angry*

Je suis si fâché(e) contre mes parents! *I'm so angry with my parents!*

Mes parents sont si fâchés contre moi! *My parents are so angry with me!*

J'ai vu rouge: *I saw red*

J'ai perdu la tête: *I lost my head*

J'en ai marre! *I've had enough!*

Ils refusent de me laisser + infinitive verb: *They are refusing to allow me to...*

Je ferai de mon mieux pour...: *I will try my best to...*

C'est immonde! *It's unreal! (negative)*

Ils me traitent comme un bébé: *They treat me like a baby*

Je ne pense pas que ce soit juste: *I don't think it's fair*

A quoi bon + infinitive verb: *What's the point in...*

### **Closing:**

Bon, ça y est, je te laisse enfin car j'ai sommeil. *Ah well, that's it, I'll stop because I'm sleepy*

à demain: *til tomorrow*

## Fun cultural activities in French

- 1- They are two French video clips with online activities to complete. Have a go! It develops your culture of France and French-speaking societies.

<https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/exercices/a2-elementaire/orelsan-tout-va-bien>

<https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/exercices/a2-elementaire/les-enfants-de-la-terre-feat-yannick-noah-les-lionnes>

- 2- Download the FranceInfo app and try to read the news in French everyday! If you activate the notifications, you will get live notifications in French. It's rather cool!

Download the RadiosFrance app and try to listen to French radio everyday!

Download the App DuoLingo and play some language games for beginners.

- 3- Finally browse through Netflix or Amazon Prime or any other providers of the same type to see if you can find a French film or series to watch. I would love you to tell me which ones you watched as I am always after some new stuff to watch for myself!
- 4- You could also watch Au Revoir les Enfants in French with English subtitles (which is on SharePoint / MFL / Year 7 school closure / French /film). It's a great film about a boy's boarding school during WWII and the occupation in France.
- 5- Or you could watch Taxi 2 in French with English subtitles (on SharePoint too). It's an action film about a taxi driver who drives a super technologically advanced car in Paris.
- 6- You could also try this thriller about a murder on an island off Brittany. There are no subtitles, but have a go! <https://revoir.tv5monde.com/toutes-les-videos/series-fictions/meurtres-a-belle-ile-meurtres-a-belle-ile>

Amusez-vous bien!

Madame Finley