



The French Curriculum at Nova is Ambitious, Sequenced Carefully, Principled, Inclusive, Research-informed and Enriching.



Our curriculum is ambitious in the sense that we have created it ourselves, for our students at Nova. We teach our students to speak in a variety of contexts and situations from day one. Topics like school and relationships come up all the time so students are flooded with the input they need to become confident speakers. We practice the basics and add interesting phrases, so our students have a range of vocabulary to express themselves. They can converse in a variety of situations.



Our curriculum follows a logical sequence of communicative functions, meaning that we teach the basic structures of language and build on them over the years. We apply language in context and don't teach single words. Students can speak and write in a variety of tenses without studying conjugation or complicated grammar rules. Our GCSE curriculum follows the themes required for the exams and consolidates the previous three years. Students learn exam skills and more complex language to ensure they stand out.



The way we have planned our resources to match our curriculum ensures that students master a set of structures and vocabulary in order to feel confident and successful quickly. They re-use structures time and time again so they speak without thinking. They become fluent with ease through a series of thorough processing tasks.



We have two styles of teaching our year 7 curriculum which means that it is accessible to all. Both have been created to ensure all our students are challenged but able to access the content and able to feel success. We practice structures and vocabulary together through repetition and avoid teaching complex grammatical rules.



We follow research based on language acquisition and the studies of Gianfranco Conti and Steve Smith, among others. We have trialled several language teaching methods before choosing this curriculum. We now know what works well, and work with students extensively during lessons to ensure mastery of vocabulary. As a staff team we read and discuss ideas weekly to ensure we meet the needs of all students. We spend time discussing the requirements of the GCSE to ensure we do everything we can to support our students in achieving the best outcomes.



After school, we run a KS3 and a KS4 film club where students can engage in conversations around cultural differences and interesting topics. We also run an Italian club where keen linguists can develop their passion for language further. We plan a trip to France in line with the school's trip timetable. We host a French escape room for our KS4 students. We also use authentic texts in class and as homework to immerse our students in the language.