

## **French at Brambletye**

Pupils begin to learn French in the Pre-Prep. Lessons begin in the Nursery and continue through to the end of Year 2. However pupils arriving at the school at any stage up to Year 7 will not be at a disadvantage, since all topics in French are revisited and built upon. French continues to be taught through Year 6 (four lessons per week) and Years 7 and 8 (five lessons per week). All pupils sit French at Common Entrance, taking a 'Reading and Writing' paper that tests pupils of all abilities as well as a 'Listening Comprehension' and a 'French oral' examination. To allow pupils to work at the level most appropriate to them it is possible to 'set' the subject in Years 6, 7 and 8.

The aims of the Modern Foreign Language Department are thus:

- To stimulate, inspire and maintain lasting pupil interest in and enjoyment of the language.
- To create a fun yet challenging learning environment, so that pupils are active and confident participants in lessons.
- To enable each pupil to achieve his/her potential in all skill areas, using a wide variety of resources, to ensure the highest level of achievement for each pupil.

We are of course aware that some pupils find French difficult. However all staff who teach the subject are expected to include pupils of all abilities. A diverse and interesting range of teaching styles and resources are used to sustain motivation. The 'balance' of the syllabus also reflects the four elements of Common Entrance, each of which is given equal weight: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

More able pupils are encouraged to increase their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary by working towards a level roughly equivalent to GCSE. 'Scholarship' pupils will be aiming beyond GCSE level. The Common Entrance examination requires that all pupils are able to use the present and perfect tenses and also the future with 'aller'. Senior school scholarship papers can be very demanding and the more advanced aspects of the syllabus reflect this.

Although many 'home grown' resources, such as Common Entrance and Scholarship booklets, are used within the department, the syllabus is built around tried and tested course books such as 'Metro' and 'So You Really Want To Learn French?'.

The French Department runs an annual French Day and a week's 'language immersion' activity holiday at the 'Château de la Baudonnière' in France is organised every other year during the Easter holidays for pupils from Year 6 upwards.