



Hampton Court House



Achievement with heart.

# Français langue maternelle 2024 - 2025

## FLAM and CNED

**The acronym FLAM stands for "Français Langue Maternelle". It is used to distinguish between French taught to native speakers (FLAM) and French taught as a foreign language (FLE).**

The CNED (Centre National d'Éducation à Distance) is a department of the French Ministry of Education. It provides all necessary resources to be easily followed by children who either cannot attend a regular school, or whose school does not offer a particular specialised subject. The CNED follows the official French programme in all subjects from age 6 (CP) up to degree or mastery level. Hampton Court House provides CNED lessons only for the subject of French. Students following these lessons will learn French as they would in a French school. This differs from our regular French classes that are teaching it as a foreign language. Children joining FLAM will split from their form group during the timetabled French lessons to join their FLAM class.

Only fluent French speakers will be accepted in FLAM. We will also offer the option to skilled children who reach, according to us, a sufficient level. The decision must be made collegially with the child's French teacher and the Head of FLAM. Before deciding, the child can be offered one week of trial free of charge.

### Accreditation/Registration

Hampton Court House has accreditation from the CNED, allowing and trusting us to use their resources to deliver specialised learning of French as a first language.

This registration provides access to both paper booklets and online digital content. Each student is registered separately by the Head of FLAM at the start of the school year and will have access to the CNED platform with his/her own login details.

### Registration, fees, and notice

Parents should register their children for the FLAM lessons directly with the Head of FLAM, Aurore Duvollet ([acd@hchnet.co.uk](mailto:acd@hchnet.co.uk)). FLAM lessons are £645 per term.

Please note that in Year 10 and Year 11, FLAM is an elective enrichment class running in lunchtime slots.

The fees are considered on a termly basis and the FLAM lessons timetabled like any other subject (except in Year 10 and Year 11 – see point 8).

It may happen on occasion that a lesson is missed (extra-curricular activities, concert, workshop, etc.) If that is the case, it cannot be rescheduled. If the FLAM teacher is absent, the teacher will provide the cover work, and the school will make every effort to find a bilingual teacher to cover the lesson.

If parents wish to withdraw their children from FLAM, they need to inform the Director of FLAM (Aurore Duvollet), the Head of Languages (Clarisse Gheur) and the Bursar as soon as possible.

### **Small groups**

Our FLAM classes are taught in very small groups, usually around 4-5 pupils, but never more than 8. This enables the teacher to follow each single child very closely and it also creates a close bond within the teaching group.

### **Class correspondence and multi-level groups**

The usual class correspondence is as follows:

CP = Year 2  
CE1 = Year 3  
CE2 = Year 4  
CM1 = Year 5  
CM2 = Year 6

Sixième (6ème) = Year 7  
Cinquième (5ème) = Year 8  
Quatrième (4ème) = Year 9  
Troisième (3ème) = Year 10  
Seconde (2nde) = Year 11  
Première (1ère) = Year 12  
Terminale = Year 13

Because of the age/level difference between France and the UK, we will accommodate the actual level of each child. For instance, if a child arrives from a French school in Year 8 having already done the Cinquième, then he/she will follow the Quatrième with us. Please note that this sometimes leads to multi-level FLAM groups. However, the groups are so small that it leaves more than enough time for the teacher to support each child and therefore does not affect the students' work or progress in any way.

We also sometimes merge year groups together when pupils' numbers are low. This enables us to keep the FLAM option open for every year group, as well as creating a bigger French-speaking group of children, promoting the speaking of French outside of the lessons as the pupils get to bond in French and know each other well thanks to their FLAM lessons.

### **Age of Admittance**

FLAM generally starts in Year 2 with the CP class, however if a child starting in Year 2 has already done the CP class, then they will follow the CE1 programme.

### **Homework**

In the Lower Years, children usually have one piece of FLAM homework every day unless the teacher decides it is not necessary.

From Year 5, the FLAM teacher will follow the school's homework schedule, although FLAM teachers are allowed to set a short homework even when it is not a French homework day.

## DELF

The Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française (Diploma in French Studies), or DELF, is a certification of French-language abilities administered by the International Centre for French Studies (Centre international d'études pédagogiques, or CIEP) for France's Ministry of Education. It consists of four independent diplomas corresponding to the first four levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: A1, A2, B1 and B2. It is recognized around the world – in 165 countries, to be exact – and is valid for life. It can help students enrol in a French-speaking university. The DELF (B1 and B2) certifies that the holder has autonomous knowledge of French and Francophone civilization and can analyse a text orally and in writing.

From Year 10 or 11, when the teachers think the students are ready, they will enter the FLAM pupils for either the DELF B1 or B2 (University Level).

## GCSE & A Level

If the FLAM students are considered ready, they will sit the French GCSE in Year 10 (instead of Year 11). Then, please note that we stop FLAM at the end of Year 11: if the pupils wish to take on the French A Level in our Sixth Form (Year 12 and Year 13).

For more information about GCSE & A Level, please contact our Head of French (Senior School), Perrine Dourlot at [pcd@hchnet.co.uk](mailto:pcd@hchnet.co.uk).

## Expectations

There is an implicit contract involving every student joining FLAM regarding behaviour and work expectations. The pupils must display an appropriate learning attitude during lessons and the books (cahiers) must remain very neat. For instance, the children should write using blue friction pens or erasable ink to avoid crossing out, the date is to be written at the start of every lesson and underlined in red. Also, the homework is considered very important and should always be completed on time. The handwriting and presentation of the work must meet high expectations and will be looked at by the teacher. As the programme is quite intensive, it is unacceptable for someone to waste the teacher or group's time and we retain the right to take measures against a student who does not take the FLAM lessons seriously despite several warnings.

## Programme

The teacher will follow the relevant curriculum using all the CNED resources (CP, CE1.... Or sixième, cinquième etc.) However, we sometimes add exercises needed to deepen the knowledge of specific skills: such as the BLED book for expanding grammar proficiency and we regularly do dictations to maintain high spelling awareness. Pupils also work on poetry, depending on their level and needs, by either copying (presentation and handwriting work), reading (work on fluency and tone of voice), learning by heart (memory) or even creating their own poems (writing skills and lexical work). When the classes have written enough poems, we compile them in a nice booklet called *Rêveries*.

### **Book reports**

The students will be asked to complete 3 books reports per term. The FLAM teacher will announce the deadlines at the start of each term, and make sure they appear in the pupils' almanacks ahead of time. We advise the FLAM students to read a little bit in French every day. The book reports should not be a task completed in a few days, but an ongoing piece of work to encourage them to keep reading.

The age-appropriate, official lists of books in French, made up by the French Ministry of Education, are available [here](#), or can be sent on demand to parents.

### **French Library and "L'Ecole des Loisirs"**

Following point 21, pupils will read three books in French per term. Parents can buy them using the list given at the beginning of the year, or the students may freely use our French Library, situated in the FLAM room. They can borrow as many books as they like, given that they fill in the "Borrowing books" sheet (next to the library) before bringing them home.

In addition to the French Library, HCH also participates in an abonnement regroupé (group subscription) with the company l'école des Loisirs. This programme is at an extra cost (around £40 for the year, depending on the age range selected, instead of £50 if you were to buy it on your own) and allows your child to receive his/her own book every month through the school. Over the year, this is a total of eight books. The paperwork and the leaflet describing the upcoming books for the year are given in September.

### **End of unit tests: "évaluations"**

The évaluations are compulsory and take place at the end of each unit. They allow us to assess the learning and skills of the child throughout the year. If the student is enrolled officially with the FLAM in France (see point 5), the évaluation is then sent there to be marked by an official examiner who will follow the child for the school year. If not, the teacher at HCH will mark the test him/herself. Parents are asked to sign the évaluations and work on them with their child, if necessary, after they have been given back. The children then hand them back in to the teacher at HCH to be filed. They are kept in an individual folder for the year, which is sent home at the end of the year with the HCH certificate letter of validation (point 24).

Depending on the class, there are 6 or 8 évaluations per year in Prep and Senior. However, the programme is extremely intensive and almost impossible to finish, so it may happen that a group does not complete every work unit, especially in Year 7 to Year 11. This is another reason we maintain very high expectations. That way, even when we have not completed a year's full programme, none of our students has ever had any difficulty going back to the French educational system. In that case, the teacher only makes sure that every student reaches the requirements needed to access the following year's programme.

### **Reports and end of year HCH certificate**

At the end of each term, the FLAM teacher will write a short report, usually in French, assessing the child's progress. These are useful and will almost certainly be looked at if a student is looking to go back to the French educational system.

At the end of the school year, each pupil will be given his folder for the year, which will hold all his évaluations (point 24) and an HCH certificate that confirms the level reached in FLAM. This establishes that, according to the school, the child can continue in the following year's French programme if he/she were to go back to the French educational system.

## Key contacts

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