

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear parent/carer,

As part of our current French scheme of work, all pupils in year 7 have been enrolled into the Routes into Languages French Spelling Bee. As part of this competition, pupils are encouraged to learn French words and how to spell them using the French alphabet. All the words are carefully selected to support pupils in building a firm foundation in French.

Over the next few weeks, all pupils in year 7 will be given a vocabulary list of 50 words to learn for Stage 1 of the competition. This will be in the format of a class heat, taking place the week beginning the **5<sup>th</sup> December**. Pupils will be given 1 minute to spell as many words as they can. They are given a word in English, they then translate to French and finally spell it out using the French alphabet using the correct accent names, if needed. The class heats will not be performed in front of the class.

The three pupils from each class who spell the most words correctly in one minute will go through to a year group competition in February. After that, the three winning pupils from the year group will go on to represent the school in a North West Final in Manchester. Stage 4 is a national final in Cambridge for the regional final winners. We have been fortunate enough, in the last three years, to have two pupils progress to this very prestigious stage!

Pupils will spend a few lessons getting to grips with the format of the Spelling Bee and will grow in confidence with the translations of the words. However, they must continue to ensure accurate pronunciation as well as learn the alphabet sounds and accents in order to be successful. All resources to help them with this have been placed onto Firefly as well as further information being in their French exercise books. Additionally, they have all created and/or been given a username and password for the online site Quizlet to aid them with their home learning. Please encourage them to be spending some time learning these words each week to fully prepare themselves. Last year's finalists said the best way to be prepared was by getting someone at home to test them.

We really hope your son/daughter will enjoy being involved in the Spelling Bee and it will help build their confidence in all aspects of their French learning.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Miss S Huddart  
Subject leader, French

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