Francofest 2020
What is francofest?

FRANC OFEST is a French language event, unique in Northern Ireland, which aims to highlight the **benefits of language learning** and what they can bring to our pupils and school communities.
What did we have to do?

- We had to run a tourist information office.
- We had to research a French-speaking town and make leaflets, maps, a display and prepare a role play to conduct with the judges.
- This enhanced our ICT, marketing and enterprise skills, thinking skills and personal capabilities.
- We also used our reading, listening, speaking and writing skills in French.
The judges asked us about sports, shops and restaurants in the area and we dressed up as a chef, a shopping addict, a moose and an ice-hockey player. We had to perform our role-plays four times for four different judges.

We were awarded marks for our French accuracy, intonation and accent and for our creativity, enthusiasm, engagement, effort and team work.
After our performance we got a tour of Queens. It was amazing. The library accommodates 2000 pupils. Queens has its very own cinemas and we saw the beautiful and famous CS Lewis library and the Lanyon Building. It was fabulous to see real student life – students walking about in jeans, with their coffee, heading to lectures / the library / elsewhere.
Before the prize-giving, we had a talk on the importance of the French language and the relevance of language skills for employability. They told us the following facts on France and we all now know it makes sense to choose a language for GCSE.
What can **you** do with French?

- French is the fastest growing language in the world with more and more speakers making it the most sought after language for economic opportunities, jobs and contracts.

- In the UK, French is the most sought after language in all job vacancies.
French remains the most important language for jobs in security and in the UN and NATO.
French remains as the most widespread language in the world across the Internet.
France has a thriving engineering sector.
France has a massive automobile industry.
France has a thriving fashion scene with many famous luxury clothing brands.
Illumination, a French animation company, is one of the major global competitive companies in animation. Illumination created the Despicable Me series.
France also has one of the world’s biggest video game developers, Ubisoft, who developed series such as Assassin’s Creed and Far Cry across all platforms.
The world is becoming a smaller place. Make your career possibilities wider and recruitment challenges smaller - **CHOOSE FRENCH**
Prize Giving

- We were **The best Tourist information Stand** out of 32 other schools, including:
  - Antrim Grammar
  - Ballyclare High School
  - Campbell College
  - Coleraine Grammar
  - St. Kevin’s College
  - St. Louis Grammar School
  - Dominican College, Portstewart
  - Lumen Christi College
  - Fivemiletown College
  - Lagan College
  - Limavady High
  - St John the Baptist College
  - St Patrick's Grammar
  - Glenlola Collegiate
The challenging, but also the bit that was the most rewarding, was the preparation we had to do between having to learn what to say and preparing the decorations. Overall, we enjoyed our time on this.

We spoke with loads of teachers and pupils to get information about Québec and Montréal and we learnt lots of interesting things.

Rhys Park 10L
In preparation for Francofest 2020, we had to learn a role-play script in French. We practised in front of all the French teachers and we also did a dress rehearsal in front of a class. We made all the items on our display (plastic food, maps, leaflets, posters, souvenirs and badges), enhancing our ICT skills and creativity. All the props that we made were commented on by the judges with praise.

I absolutely loved hearing the judges’ feedback and the tour of Queens’ University because it was nice to have the freedom to wander around such a prestigious building and to hang out with university students and see their lifestyle.

We won the winning team for the tourist office category. The event was really fun and I would really recommend going to Francofest.

Leah Robinson 10I
We prepared thoroughly in the run up to the competition. To help us prepare we spoke with Year 14 A level French pupils to learn more about Quebec, as they also researched it for their A level oral presentation, and they helped us with the competition.

I really enjoyed taking part in Francofest as it was an experience I will never forget – it gave me a chance to look around Queens’ University and it also gave me an idea of what I would like to do in the future.

Lara Forsythe 10L
We spent a lot of time preparing for Francofest. We learnt our role plays, made leaflets and dressed up for it. Winning the contest was the best experience ever.

We also went on a tour around the spectacular Queens’ University. There was a CS Lewis room in the library, an absolutely amazing study area which can welcome up to 2000 students. We also stopped at the offices as well as the maths and science study areas. The final stop was a film theatre for students. I have to say, I was blown away by what I did and what I saw that day. I will never forget the Francofest experience!

Josh Oliver 10L