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04th November 2026

GCSE French and Spanish: the 30 Steps to Ace Foundation Challenge

Dear Parent or Carer,

Throughout November, our Year 11 linguists are taking part in a free national challenge called 30 Steps to Ace Foundation. It is designed to do one thing: turn a Grade 3 answer into a Grade 5 one.

The idea is simple. A Grade 3 answer says one thing, in one tense, with no reason attached. A Grade 5 answer says what you did, what you normally do and what you are going to do, and it gives an opinion and a reason for each. The difference between those two is not long words or natural talent. It is about thirty short structures, used on purpose, and that is what the challenge teaches, one a day for thirty days.

What your child will do each day

- Read one page: the structure, five ready made phrases, an examiner tip and three short writing tasks.
- Complete a short online quiz of five translation sentences using that day's structure.
- Receive an instant mark out of 10, with a model answer for every sentence.

It takes about ten minutes. There is nothing to buy, nothing to install and no account to create.

How you can help at home

- Ask what today's step was, and ask them to say a sentence using it out loud. Saying it matters as much as writing it.
- Ask what they scored out of 10. A low score is useful information, not a problem.
- Encourage them to tick the day off only when they can produce the structure without looking at the page.
- If they miss a day, they should carry on from the current step rather than trying to catch up.

Every five days there is a writing checkpoint, where your child writes a full exam style answer using the structures learned so far. Those are the days worth asking about.

Scan to take part.
It's free.

jmumfordteachertraining.com/30-steps-challenge-ace-foundation

No sign-up needed. Scan, bookmark, and a new step opens every day from 1 November.

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If you have any questions about the challenge, please contact me using the details below

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kate Rowley, CAL