

Ideas to engage pupils

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Firstly, at the beginning of the year, I ask my students to complete a questionnaire where they say what they like. I ask them what is their favourite sport, singer, food, film? and then I include those references in my lessons throughout the year! Pupils love it. I incorporate it in reading, listening, speaking or writing tasks.

In my experience, team competitions and fun activities are huge motivators as well.

This picture is for my KS3 classroom.
I divide my classes in two teams (pain au chocolat vs croissant/ équipe B vs équipe A) and during every lesson teams gain points.

The first group to then reach the top of the Eiffel Tower gets a prize! (stickers / merits/ sweets etc.)



Pen pal letters

In my school, we have contact with a French school and all our KS3 pupils have a French pen pal. It is very easy to find schools who want to take part. I recommend the e-twinning website!

Writing takes another dimension in class and pupils actually don't mind writing as they are sending their letters to their pen pal. Writing for a purpose!! I will always remember last year, the first time my Year 7 French class was writing their letters, they described themselves, talked about their family as it is what we covered in class but then they were all asking me how to say 'What is your favourite film? What is your favourite sport? 'What subjects do you like? Etc...' so I asked my class if they wanted me to teach them how to ask questions and they were so keen to learn because they wanted to then use it in real life and to include it in their letters.

With Y8, we study the topic of town so last year I asked my pupils to send a postcard to their French pen pal. The first part of their project was about

- *telling where they live
- *where it is located
- *what is there in the town

I have been so impressed with the homework produced by Y8 pupils. They really went the extra mile and the French pupils loved it too!



Authentic materials

We all know how important it is to use authentic materials. Here are some examples of great websites:

<https://www.1jour1actu.com>

www.Teachvid.com

<https://www.jde.fr>

<https://www.geoado.com>

<https://www.scoop.it/topic/publicites-et-infographies-de-la-francophonie>

Use virtual tours (eg. <https://www.blog-in-lyon.fr/visite-virtuelle/index.html>)

Use short video clips from YouTube (eg. Zoo de Beauval)