

Learn a different tongue

It was always considered prudent to learn a foreign language and give yourself a competitive edge. Here are the details of three language courses in the city

FRENCH

Considered as one of the most prestigious cultural spaces and language institutes, **Alliance Française du Bengale** works at inducing the rich inter-cultural exchange of dynamic art forms between India and France. Present in more than 15 schools over Bengal and Assam, the institution has specially designed French courses for children. Interactive sessions are also organised at the Park Mansion address to inspire them to internalise the language as well as the French culture and lifestyle at a young age.

COURSES

Children (6 to 11 years): Every Sunday 12.45–2.15pm (12 weeks) Rs. 5500

Junior (12 to 16 years): 12.45–2.45pm (12 weeks) Rs. 6500

Next session starts on January 13, 2019.

FACILITIES

■ Interactive and fun games organised for children to participate in culture and language-learning from a young age.

■ Various weekly workshops conducted by librarian Sandhya Vasseur helps kids improve their skills in the language as well as participate in the exchange of dynamic cross-cultural ideas through events and activities.



INCHORUS PUPPET SWING AN INDO-FRENCH MUSICAL PUPPET SHOW



Joining hands with The Future Foundation School, Alliance Française du Bengale has created a platform to revive the long-shadowed art of puppetry. Inchorus Puppet Swing, organised by The Future Foundation School in collaboration with Alliance Française du Bengale, on September 3 had French puppeteer Sabrina Arusam and Hindusthani musicians Dhruv Bedi and Saptak Sharma perform at the school in front of a wonderful gathering. The thought behind the event was to enhance the social and personal development skills through the amalgamation of the cultures of India and France.

FRENCH IN SCHOOL

The Newtown School

Upping the experience of teaching French in the city, the French consulate appointed Melissa Abrantes, a French national, as a French teacher at The Newtown School. It became the first school in India to get a French teacher from the French Language Tutors in India Internship Programme. Melissa, who wants to bring in experiential learning in her class and teaches through role play, board games, cards, video games, outdoor activities, storytelling and more to build up the basic grammar and pronunciation, said, "I will concentrate more on the oral than on the written aspect. Also, through activities like role play, games, storytelling and others, I want not just to build their vocabulary but also know how to use it in their comprehension in the right way." She added, "With a Frenchwoman teaching them the language, they would follow the accent and expression and learn their grammar, phonetics and pronunciation much better." Around 200 students from classes V to X have French as their second language.

Students learn the basic rules of French grammar, to read, write and speak French, all at the elementary level. They are able to sing French songs and stage plays in French. We have started a correspondence exchange with a school in Rouen, France. Also, our school recently hosted a group of students and teachers from Brittany in France as part of an exchange programme.

— **Sangeeta Tandon**, principal, Shri Shikshayatan School



Shri Shikshayatan School

French was introduced in Shri Shikshayatan School in 2009. Currently, 111 students study French in the school. The language is taught in classes VI, VII and VIII as a third language and it is one of the special activities in classes III, IV and V. A part-time teacher devotes three periods (40 minutes each) per week in the senior section, one class (an hour each) per week for juniors.

Lakshmiapat Singhania Academy

Since 2004, students at Lakshmiapat Singhania Academy have been learning French as the second or third language. A total of 52 students are currently pursuing French in the school till Class VII. The activity-oriented classes are conducted by a part-time teacher who teaches twice a week.

The BSS School

At The BSS School, French was introduced around 10 years ago and is taught as an extra-curricular subject. Currently, there are around 60 students from classes VI to X who are learning the language. Here, too, a part-time teacher holds classes twice a week. The approach is universal and the curriculum is based on communication, interaction, speaking and reading.

Parents always want to provide the best for their kids. We are happy to offer the parents the best standards in town about teaching their kids French with our highly qualified teachers of Franco-Indian team and the authentic cultural environment of our centre, giving opportunities to the children and parents to interact with faculties and French artists.



— **Fabrice Plançon**
Director, Alliance Française du Bengale

I already have co-curriculars after school, such as art classes and tennis. But I enjoy the French classes and feel it will be good for my future abroad. I am a Canadian citizen and, so, my parents and I felt it was important to learn French, as it is an official language of Canada.



— **Saranya Dev Bhattacharyya**
Class IV
The Cambridge School

ZOOM DADA



French performing arts theatre Théâtre Bascule and Alliance Française du Bengale together organised a hip-hop dance performance of 40 minutes. In the framework of the bilateral relations between India and France, this event was held in association with Kolkata Centre for Creativity. Zoom Dada had the dancers using a lot of free expression and movement of the body. It was attended by 42 children.

PAPER-BAG MAKING WORKSHOP



World Environment Day 2018 was celebrated with a paper-making workshop for the young ones at the library on June 5. This event, held in association with Lieber-Earth Foundation, was an initiative undertaken to reduce the usage of plastic for a cleaner and safe future.