

# Literary Associations

## *Foreign Language Association*

### *French Forum*



**“Expanding French Beyond A Subject”**

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The French Forum of R. A. Podar college aims to encourage and enhance the linguistic skills of students by creating a *mélange* between the love for France, the French language, and its authentic culture.

### **Fête Nationale**

The French forum kick-started the new virtual academic year with the joyous and most awaited Fête Nationale on the 14th of July which was all about celebrating the rich French culture and the history of the French revolution. To create an amicable environment, the forum brought up a lovely session of fun-filled games and entertainment. The participants came adorned in the colours blue, white, and red. A video montage was curated by our executive members to give a lovely ode to this day. A *mélange* of French songs, beautifully written poems, and some discourse about France were brought up together. To ribbon up the event, a video of the pompous celebrations in France was shown to which our French guest Ms. Brigitte Dejesus-Gaillard elaborated on what happens in their country throughout the entire day. The playing of the national anthem marked the end of the event.

*Podar: Nurturing Intellect, Creating Personalities*

## **Lumières, Caméra, Film!**

For the second gathering of the academic year, The French Forum hosted a virtual movie screening event on Halloween eve, October 30, to encourage the French Cinema. The French action/adventure/fantasy film; *Les Aventures Extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc-Sec* was presented to the extended forum members and students of the college on the virtual-based Zoom platform. The film was screened in French with English subtitles to make it comprehensible to the students just introduced to the language. Here's a brief synopsis of the plot of the film: "An adventure set in the early part of the 20th century and focused on a popular novelist and her dealings with would-be dealers, cops, monsters, and other distractions." Dr. (Mrs.) Shobhana Vasudevan decked the afternoon by imparting her wise and tremendously encouraging words to the audience and the forum members.

## **French Frydays: Back Home**

For the first event of the new year, the Forum members decided to bring back one of the most awaited and well-received events of the previous year... French Frydays: Back Home. Akin to last year, Fridays were dedicated to delivering weekly online activities and games enriched with fun and intellect related to everything French. French Frydays: Back Home stems from a Comics theme and the Forum members worked diligently to showcase the undertone of the event throughout. This event was brought to the audience through 'stories' on the official Instagram account of the French Forum and summed up a total of three sub-weekly activities/games:

### **Tintin in the Land of the Jigsaw:**

Resemblant to its title, students were encouraged to crack daily categorical jigsaw puzzles. A story with a link redirecting to the unsolved jigsaw puzzle was shared on French Forum's Instagram handle every day at 06:30 PM for four days. A screenshot of the solved puzzle (and the time taken to solve it) shared by the student secured their participation.

### **Wordverine:**

For the second week, a feast of wordy games was posted on the forum's Instagram handle every day at 06:30 PM for four days.

Interactive games like Words in a word, Prefixes, and Suffixes were carried out. Students marked their participation by sending their responses to the questions and replying to the forum account's story.

### **Valeria Quizzards:**

For the last event under French Frydays: Back Home, the members borrowed some inspiration from the prodigious mastermind character of "Valeria Richards". A multitude of categorised French-related picture quizzes was put up on the Forum's Instagram account following the same schedule. Identifying the pictures by replying to the stories reserved a student's participation for the event.

The event spanned out for 19 days and was received well not only amongst the students of the college but also midst colleges sprawled outside Maharashtra. The commencement of the first activity week on the 27th of January and the end of the last activity week on the 15th of February marked the completion of French Frydays: Back Home.

### **Careerscope: 2022**

24th March was a day of high regard as The French Forum of R.A. Podar College got the opportunity to affiliate with the University of Mumbai, The Department of French, and The Centre of European Studies to bring forward an interactive outreach programme to assess the copious number of career options obtainable for students alongside pursuing French.

The seminar was conducted in the hopes to broaden students' views and opportunities and conceive progressive discussions towards their inclination concerning French and the career routes associated with the language.

HODs and lecturers of the University of Mumbai counselled the students about making a career in other foreign languages apart from French. Alumni from the University also enlightened the pupils about grants and scholarships attainable for graduation and post-graduation courses for studies in France.

The programme stretched for 90 minutes and the panel created an amicable ambience to ease students and make the session as interactive as possible. Dr. Mrs. Shobhana Vasudevan and Mrs. Kavita Jajoo encapsulated the afternoon by voicing their words of encouragement and expressing their gratitude toward the panel.

In a nutshell, it was a remarkable year for the French Forum and its members. The forum encouraged a healthy competitive spirit amongst the students alongside making the learning of French amusing.