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Dear Emmanuel French students,

I do hope this finds you well and looking forward to beginning your university studies. All of us here in Cambridge are thrilled to be welcoming you for the new academic year. I'm writing to introduce myself as your Director of Studies ('DoS') in French at Emmanuel.

In your first year of French in Cambridge (known as Part IA), you will take two language papers (modules), in addition to an oral class and the 'scheduled' paper, Fr1. The language papers, Use of French and Translation into English, are taught with students from other colleges in Faculty classes at the Sidgwick Site. Oral French is taught by the Emmanuel *lectrice*; and Fr1 involves a combination of both Faculty lectures and small-group sessions ('supervisions'), for which you'll write essays in English on French literature, thought and film. I shall 'supervise' you in College for the Fr1 paper.

The aim of the 'scheduled' paper (Fr1) is to introduce students to different areas of French studies (see <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/fr1>). Sessions will focus on the prescribed texts, on relevant background and on critical approaches to the texts. No previous knowledge is assumed. The first couple of weeks of term will be very hectic, so please do ensure that you've familiarised yourself with the primary material before you arrive in Cambridge. You may find it difficult to keep up if you have not read the texts beforehand. Supervisions will follow the same order as the Faculty lectures. So, you'll be working on the following, in this order:

MICHAELMAS TERM

- Marie NDiaye, *Autoportrait en vert* (Paris: Gallimard Folio, 2006)
- Corneille, *Horace*, ed. Jean-Pierre Chauveau, Collection Folio Théâtre no. 16 (Paris: Gallimard, 1994)
- Honoré de Balzac, *Le Père Goriot*, ed. Stéphane Vachon (Paris: Le Livre de Poche Classiques, 1995)
- Marie de France, *Lais*, ed. Karl Warnke, introduction, translation and notes by Laurence Harf-Lancner (Paris: Livre de Poche, 1990)

LENT TERM

- Rousseau, *Discours sur l'origine et les fondements de l'inégalité parmi les hommes*, ed. Jean Starobinski, Collection Folio Essais (Paris: Gallimard, 2008)
- Michel de Montaigne, *Des cannibales*, suivi de *La Peur de l'autre* (anthologie), ed. by Christine Bénévent (Paris: Gallimard, 2008)
- Marie de France, *Lais*, ed. by Karl Warnke, accompanied by a modern French translation by Laurence Harf-Lancner (Paris: Livre de Poche, 1990)
- Agnès Varda (director), *Cléo de 5 à 7* (film, 1962)

The recommended editions should be affordable and widely available via the usual online channels (Amazon, AbeBooks, fnac.com etc.). They can also be sourced through local university bookshops (e.g. Heffers in Cambridge, Blackwells in Oxford) or large stockists such as Grant and Cutler at Foyles in London. It's normal not to understand everything at this stage, so please don't worry about strange vocabulary and concepts.

Reading these texts is the most important thing you can do for Part IA French. However, as well as continuing to work on your vocabulary and grammar, you will find it useful to keep yourself updated on the life and politics of contemporary France. A knowledge of contemporary French civilisation is a significant component of the Use of French and Oral papers. If you can, read a French newspaper or magazine regularly, watch the news, and listen to French radio or podcasts. You can find recommendations and further information on the Faculty website. I look forward to meeting you when you come up to Cambridge and to working with you during your time at Emma.

Yours sincerely,

Nick White