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M 61/05

To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools

New Resource for Teachers of French: www.french.ie

A portal website that has just been developed as a resource to support teachers of French in Ireland. The website, www.french.ie, was launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin TD, in the presence of the French Ambassador, on 3 October 2005.

The development of the site was initiated by the French Embassy in Ireland and it has been supported throughout by the Department of Education and Science (DES) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

The development work of the site was carried out as a collaborative project between the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) and the Education Department in NUI Maynooth. The content of the site has been selected by practising teachers of French in second level schools in Ireland.

www.french.ie is part of the wider structure of *Scoilnet* which provides an extensive range of web-based resources for Irish teachers and students. (**www.french.ie** can also be accessed at www.scoilnet.ie/french.) In the Resource Finder hundreds of web-based resources which are suitable for junior and senior cycle students can be found. The user can select a theme and then, access resources under the headings Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing, Grammar and Vocabulary. The site is very user-friendly and it contains exemplars of lessons, colourful worksheets, games and up-to-date articles, all of which can be easily downloaded. In addition, a theme-based monthly dossier lists a wide range of other sites for teachers of French to use in their classrooms.

The site contains a regularly updated news page which aims to keep users informed of upcoming events. Users are welcome to contact the site if they have an event, competition or news item that they wish to have announced. There is also a forum for discussion on any issues related to the teaching of French, examinations, exchanges and resources. The team that is maintaining and further developing the website will welcome feedback and contributions from users of the resource.

Please bring this Circular to the notice of the teachers concerned in your school.

Brigid McManus
Secretary General

November 2005

