

Is this subject right for you?

Do you enjoy analysing how people use language in everyday situations from text messages to conversations on the bus?

Do you enjoy creative writing and reflecting on how you utilise language in your own creative work?

Are you willing to learn new terminology, think analytically and consider language from a wide range of perspectives?

Why study this subject?

English Language is an ideal choice for students with an interest and curiosity in the language they hear and use every day. The A-level English Language course aims to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the English language functions, on both grammatical and social levels. Students enjoy taking texts apart to identify many different aspects, such as exactly how a speaker manages to dominate a conversation, or how a text message can convey implicit information about both the sender and the intended audience.

English Language students are encouraged to take a 'forensic' approach to language on this course. Rather than analysing poetry or novels, we focus on grammatical aspects such as vocabulary, sentence structure and functions, as well as adding new ideas such as how words sound, how they are formed and what social uses language can have. Students develop practical skills of analysis and transcription, whilst exploring how context radically shapes language and learning to apply new terminology.

Students are also given the opportunity in the first year to hone their own creative writing skills. AS Level students produce two pieces of coursework – a dramatic monologue and a journalistic interview. Students also learn how to analyse and evaluate their own writing, applying a range of language skills and conventions. Many English Language students also contribute to the college online newspaper 'The Buzz' and go on to study careers in Journalism.

Studying English Language is a good entry route into a wide variety of careers. Many students go on to study English Language and Linguistics at University, whilst others use the more scientific aspects to compliment their studies in Speech Therapy and Education. Skills such as the ability to think analytically, to approach texts logically, to work independently in groups and to present ideas clearly and with flair both verbally and in writing are widely valued by employers and Universities alike. A wide variety of students study English Language, and not just those with aspirations to be writers and linguists! This subject is also often chosen by students studying science and modern foreign language subjects who are looking for something that is complementary to their other subjects. Whatever your reasons for choosing English Language, we hope that you will bring your own fresh perspectives to the ever changing field of language study.

How is the course assessed?

In both the first and second year, you will be assessed through coursework and examination. Throughout your studies, your teachers will provide you with a range of assessment modes, providing careful feedback related to assessment objectives and with clear strategies for improvement.

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum of grade C in either English Language or English Literature

Other Information

We also aim to offer a wide range of Enrichment activities throughout the year, including journalism, creative writing, reading groups and trips.

What is the course content?

Year One – AS Level

Unit One	Language Today	Explore how language choices reflect the identity of the user and how language use varies in context. Examination	60%
Unit Two	Exploring the Writing Process	Demonstrate your skill as a writer. Explore the techniques of monologue and journalism to produce effective texts of your own. Coursework	40%

Year Two – AS Level

Unit Three	Language Diversity and Children's Language Development.	Studying language diversity and change over time and across the globe. Exploring how children learn to speak, read and write. Examination	60%
Unit Four	Language Investigation and Presentation	Independently research a language topic area – coursework.	40%

English Language AS/A Level