



English Language

Why study English Language?

English Language is an essential subject in today's world. It teaches you to understand and interpret communication in the world around you. It celebrates diversity through exploration of the language used by many different social groupings, such as: gender, groupings, age, sexuality, regional dialect and accent and use of language across the world; always enquiring into how that language has developed and how it is used to craft identity. You learn about how quickly we learn to speak as children and how language acquisition happens. You will also learn the skills of identifying and understanding bias in media texts, empowering you in the face of the manipulation that language can achieve on a daily basis. It is a subject that you can really own: it is about you; your language; where that language has come from; and where it is going.

What skills will I gain from studying English Language?

It is a subject about communication: understanding accuracy in texts, the construction of different kinds of functional (as well as creative) texts, and both analysing and producing texts throughout the course. You learn the tools to break down language through the six linguistic structures (inc. grammar, lexis and semantics and discourse structure) and then you use those tools to create your own texts. You learn to write in various different styles: reports, analyses, comparisons, discursive and also more imaginative and creative forms. You will have the opportunity to contribute to the study of linguistics through an independent investigation into language, as part of your Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), which is completed in the form of a scientific experiment.

Having studied English Language, what opportunities will be open to me?

As a subject, it supports and complements the study of Psychology, Sociology, Law and STEM subjects, providing the technical analytical and writing skills and offering a communication perspective to some of the issues discussed in those other subjects. It is academically rigorous, offering extensive wider reading and research opportunities which provide an excellent basis for further academic study. English Language prepares school-leavers for employment through its rigorous training in communication skills and the high levels of literacy it instils.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Literature.

Exam Board – AQA

Specification code/no: 7702

Topics covered in Year 12

Transactional and multi-modal texts and their meanings and representations, using the six linguistic structures and associated terminology to construct thorough written analyses; Language Change and Diversity which feeds into Language Discourses, both comparative analysis and creative writing; and beginning to consider and plan ideas for the Language Investigation NEA.

Topics covered in Year 13

Child Language Acquisition; writing evaluative essays which engage with argument; NEA Language Investigation and NEA Original Writing; and review of and addition to Language Change and Diversity Case Studies.