
Provision for pupils for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL)

For pupils whose first language is not English the EAL Department provides classes to prepare them for appropriate EAL examinations, targeting academic language and writing skills so they can gain internationally recognised qualifications, exploit their academic abilities in other subjects and enjoy all of the social and cultural aspects of life at the School.

The Fourth Form EAL lessons usually replace French/German/Spanish. If it is appropriate for an EAL pupil to take one of these three modern languages, special arrangements are made for their EAL lessons. This year is given to consolidation and extension of English with the opportunity for Cross-Curricular support where required.

In the Remove and Fifth Form pupils are prepared for Edexcel IGCSE English as a Second Language. This is typically a two year course covering the four main skills areas: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking based on authentic texts and realistic tasks.

Pupils in the L6 take an IELTS preparation course. IELTS stands for the **I**nternational **E**nglish **L**anguage **T**esting **S**ystem, a university entry requirement examination for overseas students in order to meet the entry criteria of UK universities. It also helps students improve their overall level of English which underpins their other "A" Level subjects.

The vast majority of Lower Sixth students will do a one year course in addition to their 3 A levels and should expect to do the same amount of prep and work outside of the classroom as they do for their other subjects.

For those who have taken IELTS before or who already have an IGCSE/GCSE English grade B or above there is a possibility of attending the Fast Track Programme. This runs from September as part of the Activities programme and is every Saturday morning in the first half of term with a view to taking the exam in the 2nd half. If it is felt that a student on the Fast Track Programme is unlikely to achieve the band they need for their University of choice they will be asked to return to the main course.