

English Language

This is a vibrant, modern subject that brings together the analysis of speech, writing and human behaviour. It will give you a deeper understanding of how meaning is expressed, and enable you to become a critical reader and listener with a highly technical understanding of language.

You will find out how and why language constantly changes, and explore conflicting attitudes towards language. You will study grammar, syntax, and many other linguistic features, and become skilled in analysing a wide variety of language forms - from the pre-verbal utterances of babies to the historic speeches of General Patton or Queen Elizabeth I.

Studying representation reveals the way language can influence us to share others' values and prejudices. You will use these techniques in your own writing and analyse them in published texts.

You will use linguistic methods to explore and make discoveries in a language topic of your own choosing. Projects have included: the authenticity of Caribbean accents in *Rastamouse*; *language advice for time-travellers*; *the changing accents of new recruits to Sandhurst Military College*; *the improvement of Jackie Chan's English since 1980*, and many more wonderful investigations.

WHERE TO NEXT?

This subject is highly relevant for positions in: screenwriting, copywriting, publishing, journalism, editing, marketing or law. Degree courses such as such as history or politics value the A level, as would any employer who requires you to speak and write skilfully or evaluate the writing of others. Most of our students go on to degrees - many study linguistics or journalism, often combined with a personal interest such as music/ sports journalism, and others have taken language degrees such as Chinese.

A LEVEL

AQA

Assessment

80% exams,
20% coursework.

