

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are 2 exams at the end of Year 13, each of which is 2 hours 30 minutes long and worth 40% of your final grade.

The NEA element comprises two pieces of work; a piece of original writing in which you'll choose a style model, create your own version and then write a commentary on your language choices, and an investigation in which you'll choose your own topic, collect your own data and write up your findings. NEA is worth 20% of your grade.

WHERE DOES AN A-LEVEL IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEAD?

As a minimum, this A-level will lead you to a better understanding of and, hopefully, a lifelong interest in how we communicate and how the world perceives us as a result. In terms of further study and careers, our students have gone on to degrees in law, psychology, English literature, film studies, business management and journalism. Linguistics can also have an impact in creative writing, speech therapy, publishing, copywriting, politics, dialect coaching, forensic linguistics and more.

RESULTS

2025: A*- B 38%, A*- D 92%

2024: A*- B 67%, A*- D 100%

EXPERIENCES

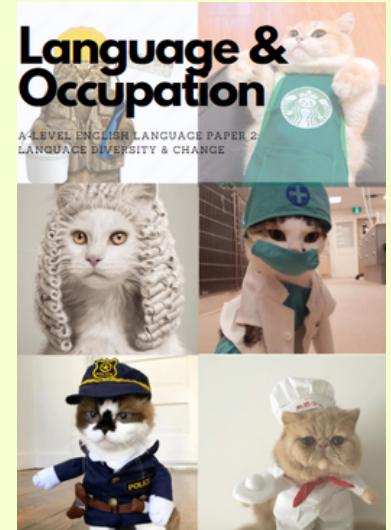
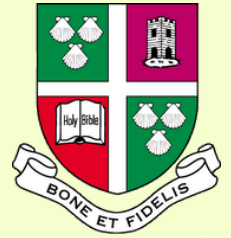
In Year 12, first-hand research into children's spoken language acquisition is gained during a visit to Ashdown Lodge, where students can interact with the younger children and put into practice what they've learned.

In Year 13, our students will be invited to attend online lectures with various universities to enrich their understanding of the theoretical content of the course.

They will also develop their first hand research into children's written language acquisition by visiting Bronte School. During this visit they will lead a writing activity to assess the student's abilities and put into practice the theory and research they have been studying.



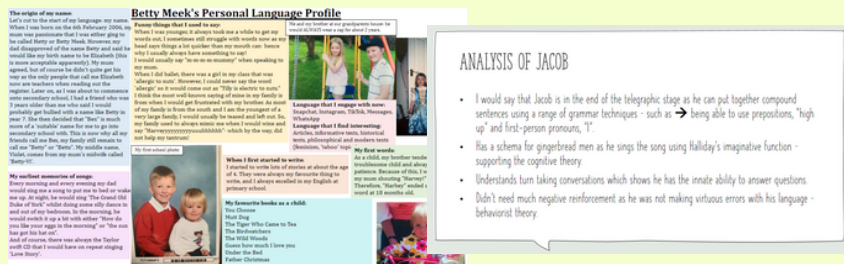
A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE



WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English language is the perfect fit for someone who has enjoyed English at GCSE and wants to take their learning in a new, but logical direction. It's important that students thinking of taking English language at A-level know it is very different to the GCSE or IGCSE courses; although you'll use some of these skills, there's a huge amount of new subject knowledge to digest.

In English language, you'll build on your knowledge of language techniques and features, as well as using and improving the skills you've developed in reading and processing texts, as well as writing both analytically and creatively.



WHAT IS A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

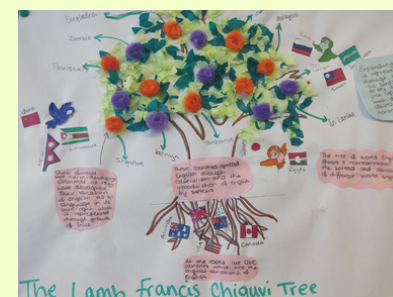
English language at A-level would be better described as linguistics; the subject is about both the scientific and sociological aspects of English.

In Paper 1 you'll delve more deeply into how meaning is shaped in texts, expanding your knowledge of a range of language frameworks. You'll add to your skills in analysing and comparing texts. One way in which the A-level course is completely different to what you've already studied is the introduction of Child Language Acquisition as a key topic; you'll learn about how young children learn to speak and write, applying linguistic models and ideas.

In Paper 2, you'll explore language diversity: the nature of and attitudes towards a range of different forms of English, from regional accents and dialects to occupational usage, as well as how gender affects our language use and why English sounds different around the world. You'll learn about how the English language has changed over time, how it continues to change and why any of this actually matters to people.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

In your 12 lessons per fortnight, you'll encounter lots of different ways of learning, from class discussion and debate to group work, with activities including creating your own linguistic models, conducting your own studies, and creating TikToks to demonstrate existing research. We firmly believe that English language at A-level should be as dynamic and hands-on as possible. And we observe the truly important days in the international calendar: Talk Like a Pirate Day takes place on September 19th, in case you were wondering.



DO I HAVE TO READ BOOKS?

One of the questions we are most frequently asked! The answer is: you don't have to, but it's always a good plan. There's a huge amount of fascinating writing about the English language, and you'll be introduced to some of it in chapters or extracts; you might even be so intrigued you choose to read the whole thing. Here are some examples of the books we've referenced in the last year:

