

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Being able to read, write, speak and listen is at the heart of everything we do, every day. Studying English Language helps us to better understand ourselves, our history and the world around us. Practically speaking, you will also develop a range of key skills which you will need to study any degree subject and which you will use throughout your adult life.

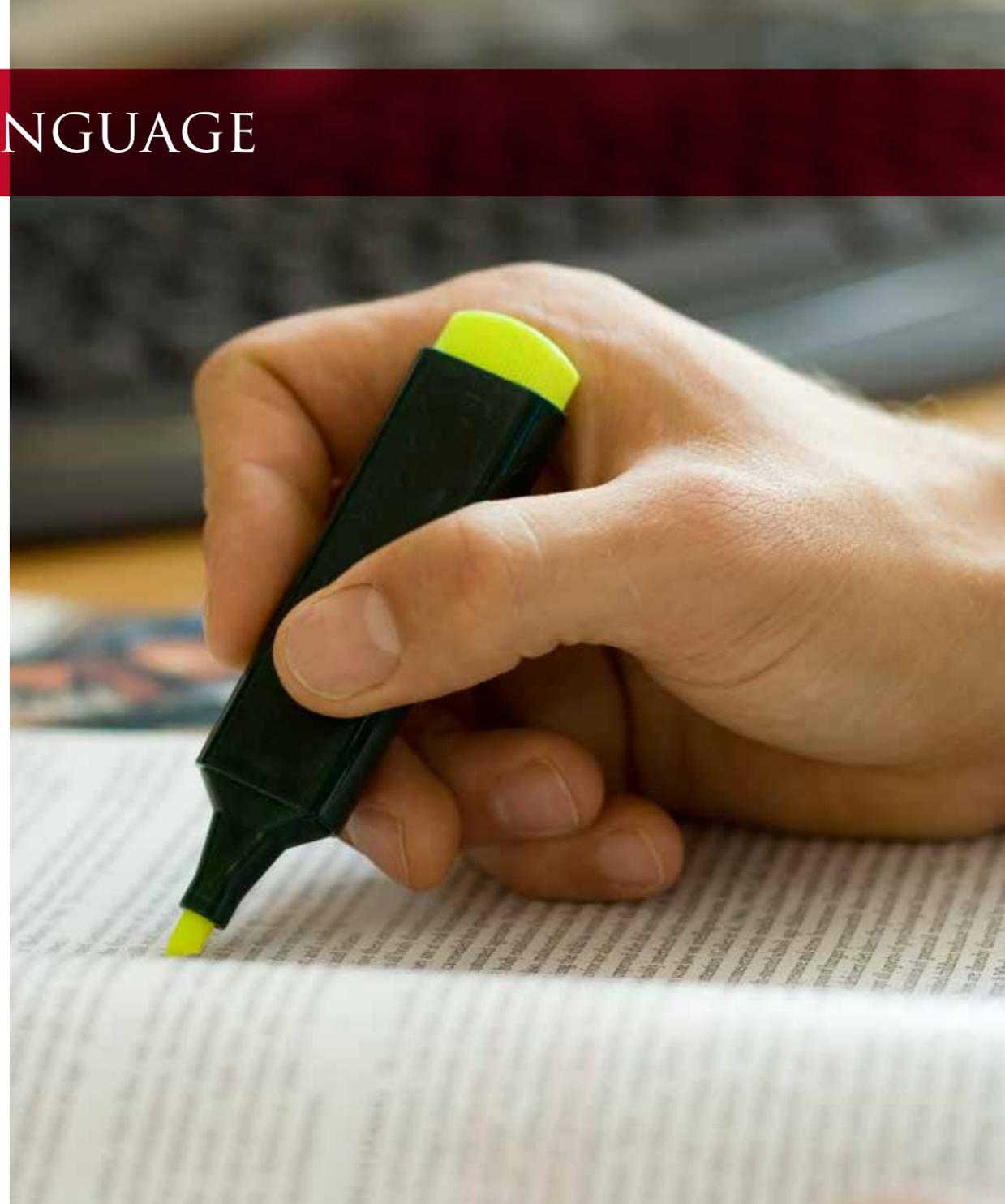
A Level English Language offers a wide range of opportunities to develop your skills as producers and interpreters of language through creative and critical engagement of texts and discourses. Students are encouraged to study the language by using it creatively to write engaging and thoughtful texts. There is also an emphasis on the ability to pursue lines of enquiry, analyse texts produced by others and debate different viewpoints.

The course will include studying your own speech, how you relate to other people in conversation, how language influences the way we see ourselves, other people and how it reveals the preoccupations and concerns of our society. You will study language topics including Language and Gender, Power and Technology. Students may choose to write in a variety of genres such as biographies, travel writing, short stories and scripts. You will also study how children acquire language and how language had changed since 1700 A.D.

COURSE OUTLINE

Year 1 - The topics and titles of the subject content reflect an exciting trajectory throughout the course, with 'Language and the Individual' focusing on individual contexts for language, and with 'Language varieties' working outwards to consider larger-scale public discourses about variety.

Year 2 - The methods of analysis appropriate to the fields of English language/linguistics underpin all the elements of this course, and these are applied to distinctive topic areas. This means that there is also scope for students to pursue their own independent lines of enquiry and topics for writing, with support from their teachers.



Fascinating academic insights to language can be chosen such as child language acquisition and gender studies.

Other Topics you will cover during the course include:

- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development
- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills
- Language investigation
- Original writing

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

A Level assessment is split into three parts consisting of two written exams and one controlled assessment. Each written assessment is 2 hours 30 minutes in length and worth 40% of the A Level and taken at the end of Year 13. Your controlled assessment is worth 20% of the A level. This is a language investigation that you will have to independently research and analyse. Your investigation must be 3500 words in length.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Competition for places will be high as English and related subjects are a popular choice at A Level as well as university. As a result to ensure we strive for the highest success students will ideally have Grade Point 7-9 (Grade A*/A) at English Language GCSE. The minimum GCSE grade required is Grade point 6 (Grade B). Some of the content will overlaps with the English Literature and studying both these subjects would be advantageous. Studying English Language would also complement A levels which are essay based and/or those which have a heavy reading load such as geography, history, English literature and modern foreign languages. You must have a passion for creative writing and language.



Language and culture are the frameworks through which humans experience, communicate and understand reality.

- Lev Vygotsky



PROGRESSION ROUTES

It is more common for students of English Language to take more 'arts' based subjects such as history, foreign languages, art and drama. However, plenty of scientists also enjoy the rigour of a different discipline as a fourth subject.

Being able to write well prepares you for every degree subject. You would be specifically well prepared for a degree in any English discipline such as English Literature, English Language, English or English studies. You would also be very well prepared for any other essay writing subject such as law, history, politics or languages. Admissions tutors of sciences and social sciences are also often interested in students who have been successful in English Language too.

Due to a strong focus on language as part of social interaction you will develop a variety of communication skills that would be invaluable in any career. There are, however, more specifically English-related careers and these include teaching, journalism, creative writing and law.

RECOMMENDED EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Most importantly, read widely and diversely! Be literary, not literal, lateral not just logical and learn for life from fiction's lives. There will be opportunities to visit the theatre, take part in creative writing workshops and learn from professionals who are working in the arts industries. Being a member of the debating society and the Model United Nations team would also enhance your debating skills.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

A Glossary of Netspeak and Textspeak by David Crystal

The Language of Speech and Writing by Ronald Carter and Sandra Cornbleet

The Language of Websites by Mark Boardman

The Language of ICT by Tim Shortis

Doing Pragmatics by Peter Grundy

A Student Handbook on Key Topics and Theories by Angela Goddard

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES CURRENTLY FOR THIS SUBJECT

1. Durham
2. Cambridge
3. St Andrews
4. Oxford
5. University College London

COURSE/QUALIFICATION DETAILS

Qualification: A Level English Language

Specification: AQA

Code: 7701 / 7702

Miss Sarah Mors, Head of KS4 / KS5 English

s.mors@kingswarrington.com