

GCSE English Language



ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL

AIM:

To gain the ability to analyse a wide range of texts (fiction, non-fiction, classics) and understand character, theme, language and structure. You will also be able to comment on features used by a writer and analyse them in detail, exploring the effect of language choices using literary terminology. Pupils will be required to write in a variety of styles, using a high level of grammar, accurate spellings, a variety of different punctuation types, and demonstrating a wide and sophisticated vocabulary.

Where will it take you?

The majority of college courses and apprenticeship providers will ask pupils to have a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language – A-Level course will expect even higher grades than this. Employers also recognise that GCSE English is a measure of how well pupils can read and write.

Careers in Journalism; Business; Teaching; IT; Accounting; Finance; Law; HR; Publishing and Politics are just some of the areas that can be accessed with an A level or degree in English.

What will you learn?

There is only one tier of entry for English Language which covers the Grades 1 – 9 range. The specification offers a skills-based approach to the study of English Language in an untiered context. The course enables students to read and analyse different types of text from modern contexts but also from pre-twentieth century sources.

Writing skills and technical accuracy are developed to cover both fiction and non-fiction genres. Questions are designed to take students on an assessment journey through lower tariff tasks to more extended responses There are two written papers for the English Language GCSE and a non-examined assessment in Spoken Language

How will you learn?

Reading and annotating sophisticated texts, creating success criteria(s), practice papers, writing in a range of styles, grammar lessons, spelling tests, weekly English homework.

What skills will you need to complete the course?

Reading skills include reading for inference as well as close reading and skimming and scanning for specific information or thematic view. Analysis and evaluation are key skills in understanding and comparing the information provided in different kinds of text. Students will need to demonstrate imagination, control and strategic planning in their approaches to writing for different purposes and audiences.

What homework can you expect?

Weekly spelling tests, weekly grammar exercises, practice papers, GCSE questions and project-based research.

Additional Requirements

Pupils who are not making satisfactory progress will attend compulsory English boosters one night after school in both Year 10 and 11 as well as undertaking additional independent work. There are also grammar and literacy groups for pupils with a weakness in this area. To improve your English, you will also be expected to be regularly reading a book. You will also have to deliver a speech to your classmates.

For further information please see Mrs Morley.