

English Language GCSE

Introduction

Having at least a grade C at GCSE English ensures that you are able to go to University or get the career you want and increases your employability. Without it your options are significantly limited. A GCSE grade C in English is a standard requirement of Higher Education and most forms of employment. Students who have not yet achieved this have the opportunity to take it again in their first year. This course will run alongside the main programme, whether that be A-level, BTEC National or BTEC First.

Course Details

The course will be very similar to that studied at school although it is completed on one year. Many of our students are required to produce a coursework portfolio, including written pieces and work to contribute to the 'speaking and listening' assessment. Coursework is completed early in the course to allow for effective preparation for the examinations in the summer.

However, there is also the option for those students who have already achieved a C grade or above for their coursework to carry forward their marks and work exclusively on examination preparation and improving their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. As one of our 'Fast track' students you will also be entered for the re-sit examination in November, which effectively doubles your chance of passing in one year.

Although all students taking this course will have studied GCSE English before, we work hard to make sure that students have an opportunity to enjoy taking it again with a very good chance of achieving a C grade.

Assessment

Assessment involves both coursework and examinations.

Coursework (40%)

- Written component (20%)
- 6 oral assessments (20%)

Examinations 60%)

Paper 1 – 1hr 45 minutes – Non Fiction response
Writing to argue/persuade/advise

Paper 2 – 1hr 30 minutes – Anthology (poetry)
Writing to explain/inform/describe

Specific Entry Criteria

Students who have not achieved a Grade C in GCSE English Language are strongly advised to take this course.

Student Comments

"This year was much better than school. I enjoyed the nineteenth century text and the coursework generally. The teaching this year was different to school. Things were explained but we also had handouts. Homework was useful because it forced me to put extra time into the subject and helped me understand".

"I enjoyed the course immensely".

English Certificate

This is a pre-GCSE, one-year course designed to go back and build on the basics and build up to specific GCSE skills. The course has been specifically created to help those students who have struggled with GCSE English.

This course covers similar skills to those required for GCSE. Students must demonstrate their ability in speaking and listening; reading; writing and study skills. Throughout the course, students will be using and developing a wide range of skills and will work to improve their spelling, punctuation and grammar. During the course students will undertake presentations and use ICT

The course is accredited by the Open College Network (OCN). Students are awarded up to four Credits at Level 1. To achieve these credits students must produce a file of work which will be assessed – there are no examinations.