



EPSOM

COLLEGE

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Provision

The EAL Department, within the English Department, makes provision for those pupils for whom English is an additional language. The philosophy of the Department is that all pupils can improve and achieve in English language to the highest level given appropriate specialist teaching. The generic target is that all pupils with EAL will gain competence in all four language components: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The expectation is that pupils will reach a level of language ability which will enable them to apply to any university in Britain, including Oxbridge, and to English-medium tertiary institutions worldwide.

When joining the College many pupils are timetabled for specialist EAL lessons in place of a modern language. They are prepared for both IGCSE English First Language and IGCSE English as a Second Language (Cambridge International Examinations) and will take the appropriate examination in 5th form (Year 11).

In Lower Sixth (Year 12) all pupils who intend to apply to UK universities are prepared for the IELTS examination which is a UCAS requirement for non-native speakers of English.

Private tuition is available at all levels.

The EAL staff ensure that pupils are exposed to tasks which stretch their abilities without creating insecurity in the target language. A wide range of activities help stimulate interest, and subsequently, learning, through careful explanation of concepts, written and oral practice, and regular testing and revision. A wide range of teaching material is used to provide a stimulating learning experience to facilitate speedy progress. Pupil interaction and active participation is paramount. Careful inspection of work and regular monitoring of progress are vital components in effective teaching and learning.

The aim of the EAL section, therefore, is to provide the pupils with advanced English language skills that will enable them to understand a wide range of formal and informal situations. To achieve this high level of competence, a sound grasp of the grammatical and lexical structures of English requires development, as do the skills of accurate interpretation of inflection and tone, in both expressive and receptive language. Consistent, regular practice in the four areas of language is essential. The pupils are given every opportunity to use and develop these skills in lessons and beyond. The EAL teachers work closely with colleagues in the wider English department as well as across the curriculum to support pupils' progress and preparation for public examinations.

In tandem with these academic and educational aims is the social aspect of life at College and in the UK. Emotional, social and cultural support is considered of enormous importance in the Department. The EAL staff make every effort to ensure full and happy social integration of the pupils in class, in College, and in the wider community.