

## A Level - English Language - AQA

**Contact: Mrs O Barnes**

### **Course Description**

The A Level course offers opportunities for students to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The specification explores the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use. Language is seen as a creative tool for expression and social connection, as well as for individual cognition. The study of language as a symbolic system used to assert power in society is also fundamental to the scope of this specification.

The methods of analysis appropriate to the fields of English language/linguistics underpin all the elements of this specification, and these are applied to distinctive topic areas. There is also scope for students to pursue their own independent lines of enquiry and topics for writing, with support from their teachers, in the non-exam assessment.

The topics and titles of the subject content give some idea of the course content: 'Language, the Individual and Society' focusing on individual and immediate social contexts for language, and 'Language Diversity and Change' working outwards to consider larger-scale public discourses about change and variety, drawing on regional, ethnic, national and global Englishes. This specification draws academic insights from a range of fields within the study of English language/linguistics, including sociolinguistics and discourse analysis.

### **Assessment**

#### **Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society**

Study of textual variations and representations (one contemporary and one older text), children's language development and methods of language analysis. **Assessment:** written exam - 2 hours 30 minutes; 40% of A-level

#### **Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change**

Study of language, diversity and change (an evaluative essay), language discourse (two texts) and writing skills. **Assessment:** written exam 2 hours 30 mins; 40% of A-level.

#### **Non-exam assessment: Language in Action**

Language in action; a language investigation (2000 words) and original writing and commentary (1500 words). **Assessment:** 100 marks; 20% of A-level - assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA

### **Additional Entry Guidance**

This course is not suitable if you are resitting GCSE English. A grade 5 at GCSE is advisable.