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**Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE** (Exam board: AQA)  
**Levels available: AS (1 Year) and A2 (Additional 2nd Year)**

**Subject Leader: Miss S Eales (Subject Leader of English)**

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## Course Information:

### \* What do I need to know or be able to do before choosing this subject?

If you have loved GCSE English Language and are curious to analyse language in greater depth, A Level English Language will interest you. You will need to gain a grade C or above in GCSE English Language to start the course. Moreover, you will need to be interested in reading widely – both fiction and non-fiction texts.

### \* What does the course consist of and how will I be assessed?

#### The AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Specifications

This is the first half of the full A Level course. If you and your teacher agree that it's best for you, you can take the AS on its own at the end of Year 12. The final grade will count towards entry to Further/Higher Education.

The AS is made up of three units:

#### **Unit 1: Discovering Language** **35% AS or 17.5% A Level**

This unit is intended to be an introduction to the study of language and uses a variety of texts as the basis for study. You will study children's early language and issues such as political correctness.

**Assessment:** one written paper of 1 hour 30 minutes.

#### **Unit 2: Using Language** **30% of AS or 15% of A Level**

In this unit, you will be developing your own skills as a writer, practising writing for a variety of different audiences and purposes. You will also build on the language analysis skills developed in Unit 1.

**Assessment:** one written paper of 2 hours.

#### **Unit 3: Interacting through Language** **35% of AS or 17.5% of A Level**

The focus of this unit is entirely on spoken language. You will analyse a transcript of conversation and write an essay exploring features of spoken language.

**Assessment:** One written paper of 1 hour 30 minutes.

## **Course Information:**

### **The ADVANCED LEVEL (AS + A2) Specification**

The full A Level qualification is made up of the three AS units plus three more units studied at A2 level. If you decide to continue with the second half of the course in Year 13, you will study the following additional units:

#### **Unit 4: Language Investigation** **15% of A Level**

In this unit you will be provided with a selection of data to analyse. You are required to complete an investigation, indicating aims, method, analysis, conclusion and evaluation.

**Assessment:** one written paper of 2 hours and 30 minutes.

#### **Unit 5: Language Variation and Change** **15% of A Level**

You will study the nature of language variation and change within the British Isles in this unit. The texts will be from different times and will demonstrate the effects of use and user related variation.

**Assessment:** one written paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

#### **Unit 6: Language Debates** **20% of A Level**

In this unit, you are required to analyse data and to present your ideas in a particular format. This unit will build upon the skills acquired in the previous five modules.

**Assessment:** one written paper of 2 hours and 30 minutes.

#### **\* How could I develop Key Skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the study of A Level **English Language**, the AS/A2 courses will enable you to develop Key Skills. Your teacher will let you know when a particular piece of work also counts for Key Skills assessment as well as for **English Language** assessment. You will need to keep evidence of this work in a Portfolio for assessment later if you wish to gain a Key Skills Qualification. During this course examples of Key Skills could include:

**Communication** e.g. contribute to discussions; make a presentation

**Application of Number** e.g. plan and interpret information from different sources

**Information & Communication Technology** e.g. present information

**Improving own learning & performance** e.g. agree and plan targets

**Problem solving** e.g. recognise and explain a problem

**Working with others** e.g. plan activities; work to agreed objectives; review activities.

#### **\* What could I go on to do after the course?**

A Level English Language opens the door to many careers for it indicates to prospective employers that you have read widely and have the ability to think through ideas logically and constructively. Higher education institutions generally offer a wide range of English degrees. In addition, English is offered with many other subjects leading to a Combined Honours degree.