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## **EAL ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE**

Most of the girls who join Woldingham are from families with English as a first language. However, we also welcome many girls from overseas to the school for whom English is an additional language. On arrival in September, these girls undertake an online placement test to identify their strengths and weaknesses in the use of English and determine their CEFR level. Woldingham Staff provide support and help students with EAL needs during lessons by making use of the following teaching strategies:

- ✓ Using picture and video whenever possible to aid understanding
- ✓ Providing examples and samples prior to an activity
- ✓ Using translated subject glossaries
- ✓ Allowing students to use dictionaries and electronic translators during lessons
- ✓ Grouping the student with strong English peer models
- ✓ Identifying and pre-teaching key words and phrases
- ✓ Regularly checking the student has understood instructions
- ✓ Providing tailored tasks for each EAL student
- ✓ Grading their language and speaking slowly
- ✓ Allowing thinking time and providing sentence starters

When additional EAL support is necessary, tuition in small groups is arranged for as long as is deemed necessary. Depending on the girl's needs, this can range from three to four group lessons a fortnight to one-to-one support with an EAL specialist. We aim to timetable these lessons as part of the student's curriculum, and they are provided by specialized teachers in the EAL Department. However, as not all students can fit three lessons per fortnight into their timetable, some EAL lessons are scheduled off-timetable. Should private tutoring lessons be required in addition to lessons already timetabled, extra tuition can be arranged through the Head of Year and Head of EAL at the parent's expense.

Students' progress is closely monitored and parents are kept regularly informed about their daughter's performance by the department's teachers. We find that our students from overseas achieve good results and quickly become part of the school community thanks to the improvement in their spoken fluency, which enables them to feel more confident and thrive in their studies.

## **Details of courses**

### **One-year students**

We usually prepare one-year students for the English as a Second Language Cambridge Examinations *PET and FCE* according to their ability in English. Our aim is to ensure that each girl acquires the skills needed to comprehend and communicate in good, accurate English as well as passing these external examinations at the end of the academic year. These examinations take place in an external official centre, but the EAL department organises the registration of students.

### **Years 7, 8 & 9**

Long-term students whose English is not sufficiently developed to cope with the curriculum will have three to four lessons a fortnight of EAL support. During these lessons, students will work on improving their vocabulary and building their oral fluency. They will also focus on improving writing fluency and reading comprehension so they can gradually build their academic skills and perform better in other subjects.

### **Year 10 & 11**

International students taking *iGCSE* examinations will sometimes require additional EAL support in order to achieve the best possible standard in their studies. Our goal is to ensure that each girl acquires the necessary language skills to achieve their target grade so, whenever possible, small EAL groups are organized to support them with their language studies. The number of lessons provided for these support classes will vary according to need and the staffing available.

Some Year 10 students for whom English is not a first language will be enrolled in *International GCSE English as a Second Language*, which is a two-year course that concentrates on building their academic reading, writing, listening and speaking ability.

### **Lower Sixth**

On entry to Sixth Form, all students for whom English is an additional language take a placement test to determine how proficient their academic English is. They are then placed in appropriate groups for *IELTS* (International English Language Test System) preparation lessons, of which there is one a week. Students will be responsible to register and take the *IELTS* exam in an official centre by the end of the Easter break at the latest, so as to have gained an appropriate IELTS grade before the start of Upper 6th.

## EAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM STUDENTS

Years	Examination	Board
7 and 8	Cambridge Preliminary English Test (PET)	Cambridge English Language Assessment ESOL
9	Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE)	
10 & 11	Cambridge Advanced Examination (CAE)	
L6th	IELTS (International English Language Testing System)	Cambridge English Language Assessment British Council

## EAL COURSES FOR LONG-TERM STUDENTS

Year	Teaching approach and course book used
Years 7 to 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Communicative course focusing on building reading, writing and listening skills.</li> <li>✓ Compact PET (Cambridge University Press)</li> <li>✓ Compact FCE (Cambridge University Press)</li> <li>✓ Oxford Discover Futures Level 2 (Oxford University Press)</li> <li>✓ Oxford Discover Futures Level 3 (Year 7)</li> <li>✓ Oxford Discover Futures Level 4 (Year 8)</li> <li>✓ Oxford Discover Futures Level 5 (Year 9)</li> </ul>
Years 10 and 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strong emphasis on developing academic language and writing accuracy and fluency</li> <li>✓ IGCSE English as a Second Language (Pearson)</li> <li>✓ Test your English Vocabulary in Use (Cambridge University Press)</li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Specialized IELTS exam preparation course Complete IELTS (Cambridge University Press)</li> </ul>

The EAL Department encourages students to read for pleasure in order to develop their writing fluency and overall vocabulary knowledge. The EAL department also provides students with a **reading list** specially created for each year group to help students read a suitable book aimed at their level and age.