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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 a placement test to identify their strengths and weaknesses in the use of English. Although Woldingham Staff will always provide support and help students during lessons, EAL support is usually necessary. In such cases, tuition in small groups is arranged for as long as is deemed necessary.

We aim to timetable lessons in English as an Additional Language (EAL) as part of the student's curriculum and these lessons are provided by specialized teachers in the EAL Department. However, as not all pupils 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. We find that our pupils 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*, *FCE*, and *CAE* 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 pupils whose English is not sufficiently developed to cope with the curriculum will have three 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 that students will gradually build their academic skills and perform better in other subjects.

Year 10 & 11

International students taking *GCSE* or *GCE* 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 necessary, 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 limits of 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 6th

On entry to Sixth Form, all students for whom English is an additional language take a placement test in order 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 are three a fortnight. Due to the demands of other subjects, these lessons are sometimes off-timetable. Students will be responsible to register and take the *IELTS* exam in an official centre by the end of the academic year, so as to have gained an appropriate IELTS grade before the start of U6.

EAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM PUPILS

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 PUPILS

Year	Teaching approach and course book used
Years 7 to 9	✓ Communicative course focusing on building reading, writing and listening skills. Solutions (Oxford University Press)
Years 10 and 11	✓ Strong emphasis on developing academic language and writing accuracy and fluency IGCSE English as a Second Language (Pearson)
6 th Form	✓ Specialized IELTS exam preparation course Complete IELTS (Cambridge University Press)