Wollaston School Sixth Form

'Dare to know seek to understand'

Course Information

A Level English Language

What is A Level English Language?
A level English Language is the chance to explore something we all know so well from a different perspective. During the course, among other things, you will look closely at lexis, grammar, the structure of conversation and phonology. You will have the opportunity to answer a variety of questions such as: Do men speak differently to women? How does new technology change our language? How do some people gain our respect through what they say? This is a course of close analysis, broad questions and fascinating discoveries.

What does the course involve?

A Level English Language helps you to use, understand and analyse spoken and written language for particular audiences and contexts as well as explore attitudes towards different varieties of language. You will develop your ability to express yourself in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres. You will be expected to write in a formal, evaluative essay style.

What themes are studied? How is it assessed?
The themes studied include:
Language, the Individual and Society (Examination 40%): Close analysis of two texts one older and one contemporary. Study how children learn to speak and how they learn to read and write.

Language diversity and Change (Examination 40%): Essays that explore language diversity and change as well as attitudes towards language. A directed writing task on a given subject.

Language in Action (Non-examination 20%): an investigation into any aspect of language, and a piece of original writing with a commentary.

Extra information
We recommend that you enjoy some background reading alongside the course:

- Regularly read and familiarise yourself with a range of broadsheet newspapers.
- Listen to a range of radio stations.
- *Wicked Words by Terry Deary*
- *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language by David Crystal*

What next?
English Language A Level is a key asset if you are interested in any career that involves written and spoken communication and a comprehensive grasp of the English language. Career options include work in publishing, advertising, law, journalism, media and teaching.

For more information about the course or your suitability for it, talk to your English teacher.