

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A Level

English Language

This subject will suit you if:

- you are good at writing for different audiences and purposes
- you are interested in the 'technical' aspect of language, such as grammar and technical terms
- you have excellent written skills – accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar
- you have an interest in how language is used for effect
- you are able to work and research language independently?

AS and A-Level English Language are now separate qualifications. AS UCAS points can be banked at the end of the year, but these points do not count towards A-Level Language; however AS Language lays the essential groundwork to study the A-Level.

What You'll Study

At AS

At AS, your course will focus on teaching you methods of language analysis ("the frameworks") with a wide variety of new specialist terms to memorise. We will progress to preparing you for the two papers that make up this examination only qualification. Note that AS and A-Level are separate qualifications for English Language, but material studied in the former is relevant in the latter.

Paper 1 will introduce you to Language and the Individual, a chance to analyse and compare texts for their use of a wide variety of language features. You will get to examine a wide variety of texts. How do advertisers appeal to their customers? What language features characterise a debate between friends over a movie, or an apologetic phone message to your granny?



Paper 2, Language Diversity, will examine Language's role in Society, known as Sociolinguistics. We will see how our identity is reinforced by slang, how occupational language gives prestige to the Professions, whether or not is important if a panda eats shoots and leaves and why a glottal stop may reduce (or improve!) your chances of getting a job.

At A Level

At A-Level Language you will further develop your knowledge of Language and the Individual and Language and Diversity, adding two new components – Child Language Acquisition, which studies how humans develop the ability to speak, read, and write, and Language Change which investigates how and why language shifts over time. There is also a coursework component at A-Level, comprising a Creative Piece with Commentary and a Language Investigation, which together count as 20% of your overall mark.

You will focus on two main areas of study: Child Language Acquisition – the study of how children acquire language, with a focus on spoken and written language; and Language Change – the study of how language has changed from the 1700's to the present day. You will also be challenged to investigate an area of language focus that interests you and to create a media text.



PARRS WOOD | SIXTH FORM

Why I chose English Language

~ Alice

"It's an interesting subject and is very different from GCSE. I've enjoyed studying spoken language as it was interesting to see how different people use language and I found spoken language theories intriguing. The teachers are extremely helpful and supporting and having two different teachers is useful because you can get different views on the subject. They challenge you by suggesting extra reading to give you a deeper understanding. I think English Language is an important subject because it is useful in all fields of work."



Ideas for Progression

Law, journalism, teaching, publishing, novelist, advertising, administration, marketing, PR, retail and sales positions, accountancy, banking, research.



Enrichment

We provide various opportunities for specific targeted groups of students:

Debating Team

Parrs Wood has a long tradition of debating success and we were national debating champions last year. Speak to Mr Smith if you are interested in participating and becoming a debating champion yourself!

We love English Club

A gifted and talented literature club for enrichment and exploration of texts and genres outside of the Literature specification. Every week at lunch times.

Creative Writing Group

The unique opportunity to develop creative writing skills. Guest speakers are also involved.

English Language Club

Run by a small group of our exceptionally talented year 13 students, this is an opportunity for the year 12 students to explore topics in greater detail as well as exploring wider reading. It is also an opportunity for the year 13 students to research topics of interest and deliver.

Primary School Investigation

The opportunity for you to visit a primary school to observe the written, reading and speaking skills of pupils within a school environment in order to gain data for your investigation coursework.



Provisional Entry Requirements

A love of reading and a grade B in GCSE English Language & Literature

To find out more you can visit our website: www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk/sixthform
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