

Contact Person: Ms CB Jacobs

Contact Email: cjacobs@nailseaschool.com

Why do you have to study GCSE English Language?

Studying English is essential for two reasons. Firstly, it makes you a better, happier person. Secondly, it is the medium in which all other subjects are taught. If you get your Language skills right, everything else falls into place. This is because everything we do inside and outside of school involves English, from writing applications and formal emails to social media and other online communication. Getting the right words in the right order is the key to happiness.

Written English is a taught skill – it isn't acquired, like speech; you have to chip away and learn structure, coherence and accuracy. Getting to grips with this and adding in imaginative depth is what helps us navigate the world of work and home. However, communication skills are not solely about technical accuracy, but about charisma, writing and speaking with feeling, capturing the cadence of compelling vocabulary and establishing your voice.

Studying English offers the chance to explore the way we communicate, why we say the things we do and how patterns of words create meaning. More than that, it gives you the opportunity for a freedom of expression, whether writing lovely narratives, reflecting on your sense of self, or shaping sentences in order to convince someone that your view is important.

Skills/attributes developed/required:

- An ability to think for yourself and apply a framework to a text
- Creativity and imagination
- A critical, personal viewpoint
- A willingness to express ideas with confidence, even if that confidence can be fragile!

Examination Information

Exam Board: AQA

Exam: 100%

Course outline:

Component 1 - 50% Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing (*fiction*)

Component 2 - 50% Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (*non-fiction*)

Component 3 - (un-weighted) Spoken Language

Where can it take me?

Next Steps: There is no shortcut – you need English for whatever you do next, and a pass is the minimum entry requirement for course, apprenticeships and all A Levels.

Future career opportunities that this subject may lead to: the English GCSE and A Level is recognised and valued by universities and employers. It fits with the English suite of subjects and careers – like writing, journalism, communications, PR, marketing, law and linguistics. However, it also acts as a perfect counterweight to other subjects and careers because of the skills inherent to the study of language and literature.

What Key Skills will I gain by taking English Language?

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysing | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Learning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication - Verbal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent Thinking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication - Written | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listening Skills |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creative Thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debating | <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision Making | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluating | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hands-On / Technical Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Work |