

## Tavistock College Sixth Form

When you sign up for a subject please note that you will be expected to study that subject for the whole two years. There will be a formal assessment in the Autumn term, after four weeks and that is the only time when students will be allowed to swap or change subjects. After this, too much will have been missed.

<b>Subject:</b> <b>English Language</b>	<b>Qualification:</b> <b>GCE (Full A Level)</b>
<b>Exam board:</b> <b>AQA</b>	<b>Entrance criteria:</b> <b>Level 6 English Language (History and geography help)</b>
<p><b>Topics covered:</b></p> <p>Although there are some distant modules to cover in this A Level, one of the most skills is the ability to transfer and make links between topics / skills sets.</p> <p>As such there are a number of elements to the course, although they can be used as different times during the exams. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language and representation</li> <li>• Language and gender</li> <li>• Language and occupation</li> <li>• Discourse</li> <li>• Language and variation – geographical change and change over time (back to 1600)</li> <li>• Language acquisition (how children learn to speak and write)</li> <li>• “Englishes” around the world</li> </ul> <p>There are two pieces of coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent investigation into language in use</li> <li>• A piece of creative writing, with a commentary explaining how you wrote your text</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How the subject will be taught:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The course is split between two teachers.</li> <li>• Initially, in Year 12, while one teacher covers in detail the specific ways in which meaning is created through language (what we call “language methods”), the other teacher will concentrate on those broader aspects of communication, both spoken and written (what we call “discourse”)</li> <li>• Pupils will then be expected to use these methods to analyse unseen texts and draw comparisons between them</li> <li>• As the year progresses, elements of English’s historical changes will be introduced</li> <li>• The teachers will then take different focuses on how language varies – whether through its association with gender, region, occupation and so forth</li> <li>• During the summer term we cover the coursework elements of the course</li> <li>• Year 13 introduces Child Language Acquisition (CLA), as well as analysis of discourse and writing to a specification</li> </ul>	

**Expectations of students:**

- General knowledge is useful – especially in terms of historical knowledge and geographical knowledge (including demographics)
- Pupils must be willing to learn a host of new terminology and be willing to engage in very precise language analysis
- Pupils are expected to read up on and improve their knowledge of grammar
- Pupils must be willing to read widely around the subject – prior reading must be completed
- Extended writing is an element of this course
- To be able to make connections across topics
- To be organised

**Summer work:**

To have read a key essay on representation, ready for discussion in September. This will be handed out during the taster session.

(It is important for you to bring your completed summer work with you on enrollment day, and hand it into the subject lead or head of faculty.)