

EAL/ Academic English Policy

Primary person responsible for updates to this policy: Christalla Mavroudis

Job title: Head of Department

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Next review date: June 2025

Circulation: This policy has been adopted by the governors and is available to parents on request. It is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers and applies wherever they are working with children.

'Parents' refers to parents, guardians, and carers.

Introduction

Academic English forms the educational foundation for any international student studying with us, whatever course they follow, as English is the language for both teaching and learning.

Every student's language target is to achieve a minimum of 6.5 in the IELTS exam (International English Language Testing System), with a minimum of 6.0 in each component. It is compulsory to study this course until this is achieved, although we recommend students study beyond this score. There are various courses to follow to do this, depending on the English level at the start (which we will assess upon arrival). Students who achieved IELTS 6.5 prior to joining DLD need to produce a valid certificate to evidence this.

The IELTS exam is as important as any A level subject, Foundation course or BTEC qualification, and must be taken alongside these, because the demonstration of Academic English skills of a certain level (generally 6.5) is a prerequisite for entry to all good universities. Further to this, universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial and UCL often request 7.0/7.5.

This exam focuses not only on the four main language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), but also on the academic learning skills required through the sixth form, into university and beyond, for example, discursive essay writing, argument analysis and note-taking.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop students' understanding of a wide variety of complex reading texts, recognising implicit meaning.
- To enable students to understand standard spoken language on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic, or vocational contexts.
- To enable students to write clear, well-structured essays, using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant issues, expanding, and supporting, points of view with arguments where relevant and showing controlled use of connectives and cohesive devices.

- To enable students to interpret data presented in diagrammatic form, identifying and reporting on the main features, using the correct lexis.
- To develop students' ability to express themselves fluently and articulately in a range of speaking contexts.
- To develop the skills necessary for further study in English-speaking countries.
- To develop an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts in order to build up a communicative competence.

How students will progress

At interview, the College will establish which main course a student should study for and place him/her at the correct point in this progression table for the Academic English component:

2 Year GCSE students will study and prepare for:

PET Preliminary English Test

APC (Academic Preparation Course) and 1 Year GCSE students will study and prepare for:

IELTS

Years 12 to 14 will be placed in one of the two following levels:

IELTS 1 bands 4.0 to 5.0

IELTS 2 band 5.5 +

in preparation for the IELTS exam.

These exams are all paper-based and externally assessed, with an even 'mark weight' balance across the four main skills areas.