



St. Michael's School

Senior & Sixth Form · Prep & Pre-Prep



English Support for
International Students



ESOL and IELTS at St. Michael's School

Key ESOL Staff

Mr Mark A J Ellis, ESOL and IELTS Curriculum Leader, has extensive experience of EFL, EAL and ESOL both abroad and in the UK, as a Director of Studies, Teacher, Teacher Trainer, Examiner for Cambridge Assessment English and Assessment Associate for Pearson. He teaches General and Academic English, providing IELTS classes for Year 11, 12 and 13 and also teaches across the age range.

Ms Rhiannon Morgan has considerable experience as a Director of Studies, Teacher, Teacher Trainer and ESOL examiner in the UK and abroad. She teaches ESOL to all year groups, on the Cambridge KET, PET and FCE exam preparation courses and both General English and IELTS in Years 11, 12 and 13. She has taught English at Key Stage Three and Four and is a Literacy and Dyslexia specialist.

Care and attention to individual needs

Prior to entry, the English level of prospective international pupils is assessed. This includes an online placement test, a written assignment and a video interview. Based on the assessment, the school will decide if additional ESOL classes are required.

ESOL classes in St. Michael's are usually very small, allowing almost individual attention. A friendly, positive atmosphere and excellent relationships with staff are strong features of lessons and pupils feel comfortable and able to ask questions or request further help. All students can benefit from additional tuition to further their language skills according to individual needs.

The aim is to enable pupils to study confidently and successfully through the medium of English to ensure that all international pupils achieve the best results in all of their subjects. This is something which the department is especially proud of.

For our international students, Grammar is covered thoroughly, as are the Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills. Particular attention is also paid to improving pronunciation, fluency and clarity of speech as well as broadening vocabulary to aid pupil learning in all subject studies.

We also work very closely with the English department to support pupils in their English literature work where necessary.

Progress tests on all key skills take place throughout the year as well as exams at Christmas and at the end of the school year. KET, PET and Cambridge English: First (FCE) classes are also provided as part of the ESOL curriculum.

Our Target:

Meeting and exceeding IELTS entry requirements for university courses

English Support for **International Students**

Years 7 to 11

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes are provided for any international pupils who require their language skills to be improved to help them access the curriculum at St. Michael's School. Classes are small and individual lessons can often be provided dependent on need. In Year 9, more emphasis is placed on ESOL in order for pupils to meet the linguistic demands of GCSE study. Where possible all classes are provided with lessons from both key staff members to provide pupils with a variety of teaching styles and approaches.

ESOL Progression

Many ESOL pupils in Year 9 progress through their ESOL classes and their levels are high enough to enrol on the GCSE English Language and Literature courses.

Those that do not quite meet the required language level for GCSE English, continue with ESOL classes and work through the Cambridge Assessment: English level program. They progress through PET (CEFR B1) and English First (CEFR B2) levels and take the IELTS examination at the end of Year 11.

Key ESOL Areas Include:

- Active speaking with role play, pair work, group discussions, debates and presentations
- Listening to a wide range of authentic audio materials and watching and reviewing DVDs and online content
- Practical grammar to aid fluency, confidence and writing skills
- Expanding active and passive vocabulary on all key topics
- Better communication strategies
- Confident and fluent reading, increasing reading speed and comprehension
- Improved writing in both formal and informal contexts on topics pupils will experience in their pre-GCSE and GCSE studies
- Computer-based learning using a variety of online resources and educational software
- Use of IT for research/project work and online practice
- Improved study skills, such as paraphrasing and note taking



Results 2022:

All IELTS Year 13 pupils scored Band 7 or higher (roughly equivalent to GCSE Grade B)

English Support for International Students

Comparing Cambridge Assessment English to GCSE/A-Level English

The relative levels of GCSE and A-Level English are measured on the Regulated Qualifications (RQF). The RQF is a UK-only measurement system with 9 levels, used for qualifications regulated by Ofqual.

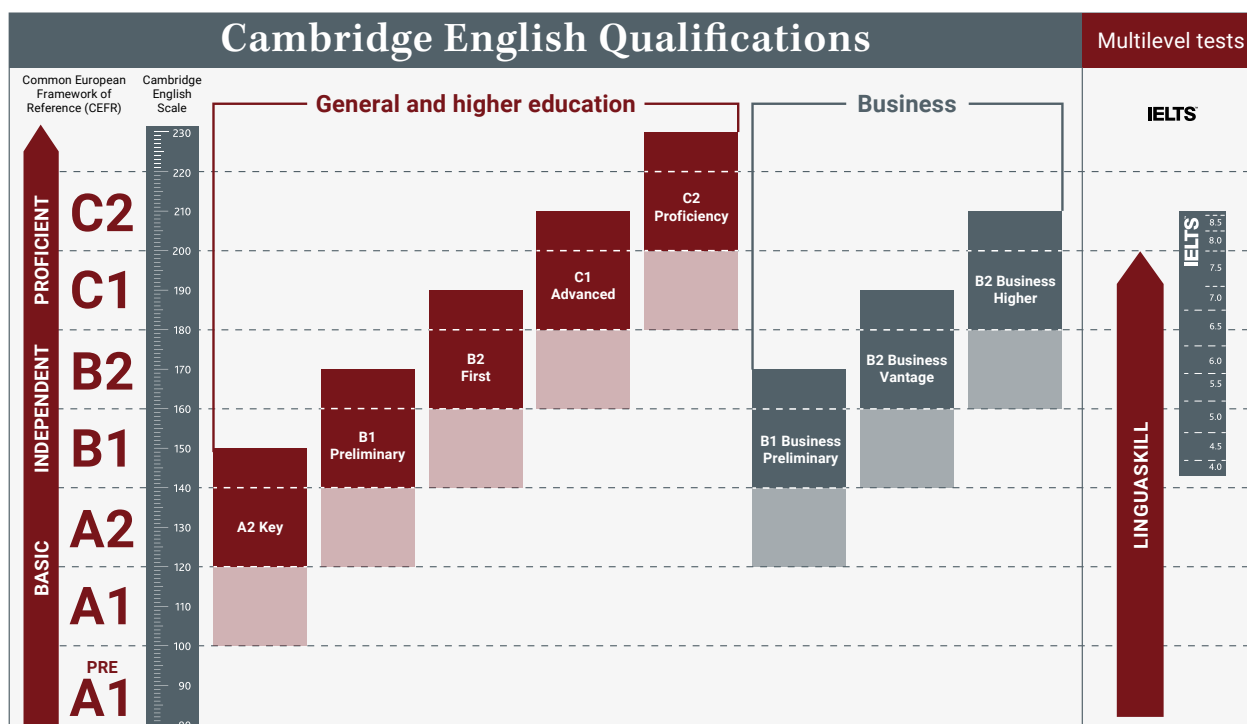
The Levels are designed to give an indication of the difficulty of the qualification - the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification. Further information regarding the RQF can be found on the gov.uk website.

Cambridge English Qualifications are also given a difficulty level on the RQF and therefore it is possible to compare them with our qualifications.

RQF Level	GCSE / A-Level	Cambridge English Qualification
Level 3	A-Level	C2 Proficiency
Level 2	GCSE Grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 or A*, A, B, C	C1 Advanced
Level 1	GCSE Grades 3, 2, 1 or D, E, F, G	B2 First

Although you can compare the levels of our qualifications with the levels of GCSE/A-Level English using the table above, it is difficult to directly compare them. Cambridge English Qualifications are designed for non-native speakers of English and measure candidates' ability in the core language skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking). GCSE and A-Level English are designed for native English speakers and measure quite different skills.

The following graphic gives you a further idea of the comparison between levels.



English Support for International Students

Years 12 and 13

In Years 12 - 13, ESOL classes continue to develop General English and begin to focus more on higher level academic English skills to meet the increasing linguistic demands of A-Level study. Pupil progress is carefully monitored and ESOL and IELTS teachers work with the subject teachers to help maximise their performance throughout their courses.

Pupils are provided with a variety of online and printed resources to make progress and individual lessons are offered for pupils who require additional support on their weaker areas, such as Listening, Speaking, Reading or Writing in the IELTS examination. Our program regularly results in ALL pupils meeting or exceeding their IELTS requirement for university study.

What is IELTS?

IELTS is the International English Language Testing System and it is accepted as evidence of English language proficiency by over 8,000 organisations worldwide.

IELTS is recognised as a secure, valid and reliable indicator of true-to-life ability to communicate in English for education, immigration and professional accreditation. These classes prepare our international pupils for the IELTS exam (and similar tests), as well as equipping them with the study and academic discourse skills necessary to ensure success at university in the UK or in any other English-speaking country.

The ESOL and IELTS lessons pupils receive in Year 12 and 13 not only improve their Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking skills to get a high band score in IELTS. Our small classes help develop their confidence, critical thinking and note taking skills, for example, meaning that they have the suitable level of academic English skills



The importance of IELTS in Year 12 & 13

In Year 13, all IELTS pupils scored Band 7 or higher, which means this gives them access to some of the most linguistically demanding courses in UK universities.

on entering their chosen university course. This increases the likelihood of successful completion of their first year.

Several universities are looking carefully at the IELTS entry requirements for their courses.

International students who achieved 7.5 in their IELTS are likely to score a whole degree classification above those who scored 6.5, despite the government requirement being 5.5. Therefore, this is our rationale for offering extended IELTS lessons and Academic English tuition in Year 13.

Year 13 pupils are therefore encouraged to further develop their language skills in many ways, such as presentations, debates and research project work. We want them to not only achieve their entry requirement but to exceed it and gain the real language and academic skills necessary to succeed in their chosen course.

ESOL Student Comments

“ ESOL lessons are fun and interesting, it provides a better and unique way to learn English, Teachers uses different activities and games to make the lessons more fascinating.

I am confident that my English will become better learning in ESOL lessons!

Wallace - Year 10

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“ I have learnt a lot of knowledge from ESOL lessons.

For example, grammar, vocabulary, writing and reading skills, and I have improved how I speak to local people efficiently. I prefer lessons that are in small groups because I need opportunities to discuss, ask questions only with the teacher.

Lennox - Year 9

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“ I started my IELTS lessons from Year 12. We focused on improving my lack of pronunciation, grammar and essential points for writing. I was provided with many useful websites like Cambridge Write & Improve, Vocabulary and Read theory and used them effectively. Compared with my old pieces of writing, it is now making more sense and the structure and linking are more clearly outlined.

My IELTS teacher, Mr Ellis, knows very well how the exams are since he himself is an examiner for Cambridge Assessment English. Not only did he help me identify the areas I need to work on to improve my score, but also did a great job in helping me raise my confidence.

Jia - Year 13

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