



# EAL at Denstone



Achievement    Confidence    Happiness

[www.denstonecollege.org](http://www.denstonecollege.org)



English as an additional language (EAL) refers to pupils whose first language is not English. Some pupils may already be fluent in several other languages and all come from diverse linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds. They may be at different stages of English language acquisition but even those at the same stage will have different backgrounds and needs. For example, they will have had different experiences of schooling overseas. Some will be literate in other languages and might already have developed concepts in other subjects, such as science and mathematics, through another language. Some will be gifted or, talented; others will have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

At Denstone College we aim to help all pupils reach their full potential irrespective of their education to date.

The EAL Department exists to help pupils achieve to the best of their ability in their curriculum subjects by supporting the development of their English language skills.

At Denstone, we offer a range of lesson schedules, which are dependent on each individual pupil's ability, their timetable and their performance in other curriculum subjects. These can take the form of one-to-one lessons, lessons in pairs, or classes for small groups of up to 8 pupils.



Initially, it may be recommended that a pupil replace one Modern Foreign Language with EAL lessons. However, we do try to keep the option of studying a Modern Foreign Language (other than English) open to our pupils.

#### Assessment Before the Offer of a Place

EAL pupils applying from overseas will be asked to take the UKiset test to determine their suitability for study in an English-speaking school. Some pupils may be offered a place on the condition that they agree to a certain number of EAL lessons each week. Pre-entry summer courses in English may also be advised.

#### Assessment on Entry

Shortly after starting at Denstone, EAL pupils will take the Oxford Online Placement Test, which gives an up-to-date measure of his or her receptive skills in English. This data will be used to inform all teachers of that pupil's English ability and will be one factor in deciding which EAL lessons, if any, will be offered.

#### EAL Lessons

These lessons are charged as an extra and cost £150 per term for one 40-minute lesson per week. If a pupil has four lessons each week, this will cost £600 per term. These lessons are to provide support leading up to each pupil's English IGCSE. If desired, a pupil may be prepared, and entered, for other external English exams, such as the Cambridge KET and PET exams.

#### Graduation from EAL Lessons

When a pupil is able to write in English at an 'age-appropriate' level, he or she may graduate from formal EAL lessons. This may happen at an assessment point, such as after the end of year exams, or at a mutually convenient point during the school year. The progress and wellbeing of these pupils will continue to be monitored by the EAL Coordinator. They will still be offered opportunities open to other EAL pupils, such as taking an external exam in their first language.

#### IELTS and Preparation Lessons

Sixth Form pupils with ambitions to study at English-speaking universities may need to take the IELTS, which is an internationally recognised test of English ability. Pupils can take lessons at Denstone to prepare them for this test. The cost of these lessons is the same as that of the EAL lessons (see above).

#### External Exams in a Pupil's First Language

Often, we are able to enter Fourth Form, Fifth Form or Sixth Form pupils for a GCSE or A-Level exam in (one of) their first language(s). This is not compulsory. We try to ensure such exams are taken at a time when they will not interfere with the taught exam courses that pupil is following.

#### EAL Drop-in Sessions

Once a week, the EAL Coordinator holds a free hour-long evening session in the library, where EAL pupils may come to ask for help with their homework (prep). This can be used for checking work for grammatical errors, or for advice on structuring essays, for example.

#### Further Questions

If you have any further questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact the EAL Coordinator, Mrs Kathryn Watson, by email: [kwatson@denstonecollege.net](mailto:kwatson@denstonecollege.net)

