

## Academic English Curriculum

Our students range from lower-intermediate to upper-intermediate level competency in English and are aged from 15 to 17. Students are admitted at any time during the academic year, with main entry points in September, January and April. We operate on a termly timetable system. It is expected that pupils will spend a full academic year at Sidcot Academic English School.

At the end of the course our students may gain certification within the internationally recognised Cambridge University EFL examination structure or at GCSE or IGCSE levels. Our curriculum is designed to give our students the linguistic and cultural knowledge required to be successful in a British secondary school and in a British university thereafter.

### The following courses comprise the curriculum at Sidcot Academic English School:

- **General English** To develop confidence and fluency in reading, writing, listening and speaking skills together with a strong foundation in the English grammatical system (topic based).
- **Academic English** To familiarise students with the features of academic language (core vocabulary, principles and concepts), subject specific vocabulary and to introduce students to the types of academic texts and writing styles encountered at GCSE and A Level.
- **Literature** Encouraging reading from the very beginning is one of the most effective ways of developing vocabulary, fluency, an awareness of structure and 'instinctive' use of language. All students will read from a range of literature and discuss, summarise and offer an opinion on what they have read.
- **British Cultural Studies** To develop knowledge of British culture and way of life as a background for GCSE and A Level studies through task based project work. This course is integrated with visits to towns, cities, countryside, museums, industrial sites, tourist attractions etc, to reinforce and expand on specific topics, and to help students put into place the 'visual' cultural background required to study successfully in Britain. This course also aims to develop the study skills needed and expected of independent learners at GCSE and A level e.g. using dictionaries; finding and accessing information within school and outside (using encyclopaedias, libraries, the Internet and the media).
- **IGCSE English as a Second Language** (Core and extended syllabus: UCLES IGCSE 0510) The IGCSE curriculum is organised on a topic basis in a two or three term cycle. Whole class teaching, group work, pair work and individual work are used within the classroom to develop reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

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## Academic English Curriculum (continued)

- **EFL Exams**
  - » K.E.T. - Preparation for the KET exam including grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing (notes), speaking and listening
  - » P.E.T. - Preparation for the PET exam including grammar, use of English, vocabulary, reading, writing (letters), speaking and listening
  - » F.C.E. - Preparation for the FCE exam including grammar, use of English, vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking and listening
  - » IELTS - This is the preferred English language qualification of most UK universities. There are four parts to the exam, each testing a particular skill area - listening, academic reading, academic writing, and speaking. Studying for this exam also focuses on the academic language skills useful for 'A' level courses.
- **Exam Practice** An exam practice session is offered to all students in order to practice exam technique and time management skills.
- **Maths** Keystage 4, GCSE Mathematics and preparation for A level.
- **Science** Keystage 4, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics and preparation for A level
- **Business English** An introduction to the language of Business English for those intending to take Business Studies at AS and A level. Students may choose to take a business English exam from a range offered by Cambridge University or the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. For those not going on to study business studies at Sidcot or elsewhere, the business exams are recognised by employers worldwide.
- **Art** GCSE Art and foundation for A Level Art
- **Games (Physical Education)** This takes place at Sidcot School, together with English students.
- **ICT (Computing)** All Sidcot Academic English School students have two ICT lessons per week to learn word-processing, the use of spreadsheets, email, use of the Internet and other applications to develop the confidence to use computers for study and everyday life. Students may take GCSE module examinations.

### The Tutor System

All students have a tutor who is there to provide guidance and support to each student. The role of the tutor is to deliver a programme of personal, social and health education in line with Sidcot school where possible and to provide support for the work of other areas of the school e.g. the health centre, boarding etc. The tutor will also deliver a programme of study skills on systems for learning - note taking, organisation of work/folders, effective study and exam technique and techniques for recording and learning vocabulary. Tutors try to create a caring atmosphere, which nurtures healthy personal relationships, a sense of responsibility for one another, the school environment and the wider community.

### Activities

Sidcot school has many activities at lunchtimes, after school and at weekends. Academic English School Students are expected to choose two activities every week. This is an excellent opportunity to make friends with English students and to discover new talents!

