

## EAL/ Academic English Policy

**Primary person responsible for updates to this policy:** Christalla Mavroudis

**Job title:** Head of Department

**Last review date:** June 2021

**Next review date:** June 2022

**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 texts using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant issues, expanding and supporting points of view with supporting arguments where relevant and showing controlled use of connectives and cohesive devices.

- 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.