



# LOUGHBOROUGH Grammar School

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## **EAL Policy**

Date: 3/1/2020

Approved By: WJP

Date for Review: January 2021

Point of Contact (Reviewer): Anne-Marie Slater

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## **English as an Additional Language (EAL) Academic Support and Welfare Provision**

### **Introduction**

Each year Loughborough Grammar School admits some pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). Many are boarders, but a considerable number of day pupils are of different nationality, and some require specialist EAL intervention. LGS aspires to ensure that all EAL pupils are integrated fully into the School community. They experience an immersion technique through which they acquire English through their academic studies and through their social interaction with UK students, students of other nationalities and teachers in the classroom, in the boarding houses, and in co-curricular activities.

### **Admission to Loughborough Grammar School**

Prospective pupils who do not have English as their first language may apply for a place at the school in the usual manner. Their assessment will include an online proficiency test and a written test of English language administered by the Head of English as an Additional Language (EAL). In the event that they visit the School, they may engage in an informal interview with the Head of EAL, the Registrar or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Alternatively an interview may take place via Skype, if appropriate.

The results of these English language tests are considered alongside the normal entrance tests appropriate for the age level of entry in order to determine whether the pupil will be able to cope with studying in a second language at LGS. Whilst every applicant is treated as an individual, we generally look for a minimum of a B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for Year 9 entry; B2 for Y10 entry; and C1 for Lower Sixth (or a high B2 if the student is planning to study Maths and Sciences and scores well on these subject papers).

EAL pupils who are admitted to Loughborough Grammar School will be able to receive specialist help to enable them to access the mainstream curriculum. In addition, pupils may be prepared for exams, where appropriate, such as the Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations and IELTS. The fee for entering these examinations is charged to the end-of-term bill.

During new students' early EAL lessons, further assessment, both overt and discreet, takes place. Subject teachers, tutors and Housemasters also monitor these students both in House and in the mainstream classroom. The Head of EAL may also carry out "shadowing" of new EAL pupils in order to better ascertain their English language needs in the mainstream classroom. Evidence of need for language support will lead to the student receiving group and/or individual EAL lessons.

### **Pastoral and Social Welfare**

In addition to receiving support for their language needs in the form of group and/or individual lessons, LGS aims to ensure that all EAL pupils feel integrated into the school community and cared for pastorally. All pupils at LGS have a tutor who is, alongside the Boarding Housemaster, responsible for their academic, pastoral and social welfare. The Head of EAL is an additional point of contact for boarders for whom English is not the first language. The School Counsellor is available and offers confidential and professional support to any student, free of charge. The School aims to ensure that all pupils, international or local, will feel there is always someone they can turn to however small a perceived problem.

## Induction Course

All EAL students attend an induction course, which takes place in the days immediately prior to the start of the Autumn Term. Parents/guardians are invited to an informal buffet meal that offers the opportunity to meet key academic staff including the Headmaster and Boarding staff. The new pupils are familiarised with Loughborough Grammar School, its buildings, its timetable and its traditions, in a sheltered environment. Sessions are offered on linguistic issues such as coping with unknown vocabulary, note-taking and study skills, in preparation for the academic demands of the curriculum.

## The EAL Department

The aim of the EAL department at Loughborough Grammar School is twofold:

1. To enable our overseas students to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing in English so that they can access the whole curriculum, participate fully in co-curricular activities and enjoy the social and cultural opportunities on offer.
2. To improve their English language skills as quickly as possible so that they can pass Cambridge and IELTS examinations and fulfil the language requirement for entrance to an English-speaking university.

## The Academic Year

### Years 7-11

All EAL boarders are offered up to two hours a week EAL support.

Currently:

In year 9, EAL replaces one options subject

In years 10 and 11, EAL replaces one options subject. Boys with a high level of English may instead take English after school twice a week whilst maintaining a full GCSE curriculum.

In addition, day boys identified as in need of support can come to class with the boarders.

All EAL students up to Year 11 work towards the Cambridge English exams at the appropriate level, aiming for **Advanced by the end of Year 11**.

### Initial assessment and exams

All boys starting at the school from overseas have an initial assessment carried out by a qualified EAL specialist and are given a level on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Boys identified as in need of English support are taught in small groups throughout the week.

In Years 7-11 they work towards the Cambridge Suite of English Examinations at the following levels as appropriate:

Cambridge English Key	A2
Cambridge English Preliminary	B1
Cambridge English First	B2

They work intensively on speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar. They are further encouraged to participate actively in all curriculum areas by asking and answering questions in class and by engaging in whole class, small group and paired discussions.

Cambridge English examinations are taken once a year. Year 11s take their exam in March prior to GCSEs. Years 7-10 take their exam in June.

### **Years 12-13**

Year 12 students follow an EAL course, which leads to taking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) in the Summer of Year 12. This examination is an internationally accepted university entrance qualification. The IELTS examination tests academic skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking. The examination is designed to grade students' level of English at a level of 1.0 – 9.0. The grade needed depends on the individual university but most require a minimum of 6.5 – 7.0. The Year 12 EAL course also addresses skills that are important for study in higher education.

New students in Year 12 have an hour a week after school plus 45 minutes during private study time to work on their general English and IELTS preparation.

Year 13 students (who started at the school in Year 12) have an hour a week after school plus an hour a week during private study time to work on university applications, interview skills, general English and, where still required, towards IELTS.

### **One-to-one Lessons**

In addition to group lessons, students may receive one-to-one lessons and/or small group lessons, if a particular need is identified.

### **Conclusion**

We are dedicated to internationalism at LGS and want to do all that we can to ensure that each student achieves their full potential both academically and socially.