THE SIXTH FORM
AT RIPLEY ST THOMAS

English Language

Course Requirements
GCSE English Language – Grade 5
or
GCSE English Literature – Grade 5

Syllabus
AQA

Who to Contact
Mr S Baker
Course Leader

Overview

Imagine waking up tomorrow and being unable to speak or read or write. We take language for granted but it allows us to express our thoughts and feelings, maintain relationships and ask for the things we need. As a student of English Language you will come to realise that every word we say or write is a choice. You will learn new ways to analyse those choices as well as developing your own creative writing and research skills.

Why do you only call your mother 'Mummy' when you want something? Why do men rarely realise that a woman is dropping a hint? And when someone looks outside and says that it's raining cats and dogs... why don't we immediately phone the RSPCA? In English Language you will learn the answers to all of these questions and many more.

Structure

20% of your marks will come from Non-Exam Assessment (similar to coursework). You will produce some original writing and then explain the decisions you made as a writer. You could write a story, an article for a magazine or newspaper, a speech, a script or anything else that could be produced by a professional writer. You will also carry out an original piece of language research.

The majority of your marks are based on two 150 minute examinations taken at the end of Year 13. In preparation for these you will learn how to analyse the choices writers and speakers make and why they make those choices. An important focus is the impact different aspects of a person's identity might have on their language use. We will consider how and why language changes over time. You will also learn why your language use is different from that of your parents and how you acquired the ability to speak, read and write in order to become the articulate, skilful language user you are today. However good you are at reading and writing now, by the end of this course you will be even better!