



Functional English



KS4: YEARS 10 AND 11

CURRICULUM: 2025 - 2026

Subject: Functional English

Why study this subject:

Functional English is a non-exam subject that has been designed to help students to continue to develop their English skills, which can then be applied to every other subject they are studying. Functional English is of value to all students, from those who have recently graduated from our ESL program to those who have studied in the mainstream since they joined the school.

Aims of This Subject

This course is taught in year 10 and 11 by our specialist ESL teachers and is designed to develop confidence and improved ability in the use of the four English skills, namely: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Curriculum Content

The topics studied in Functional English are determined through ongoing skills gap analysis and liaison with teachers from the mainstream English department who help shape the curriculum by identifying general areas in need of development within their English classes.

The topics we cover are taught across the four English skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and include:

- Question decoding and comprehension techniques
- Vocabulary building
- Development and use of sentence styles and structures
- Development and use of tense styles and structures
- Formal and informal registers
- Question tags
- Reported Speech
- Conditionals

- The passive voice

Additional Information

Functional English has helped a broad range of students of differing ability and has resulted in a significant improvement in their English skills, which have been reflected in their IGCSE English results and other examination subjects they have taken.