

English Language

Have you ever wondered why people from different regions speak with different accents or dialects? Do you ever think about why we have odd sayings in English like “kick the bucket”? Or why we have two words for the same thing, for example *king* and *sovereign*?

This course can help you to explain these mysteries about our language, but it does so much more. It hones your reading and writing skills superbly, preparing you for further study whatever your chosen career after sixth form. It makes you rather good at reading between the lines and spotting “spin” (quite a useful life skill!). It also helps you to understand more about spoken language, including how we learn to speak, how language is a form of behaviour and why language is so closely bound up with our ideas about social class.

What will you be learning?

- Linguistic analysis of authentic texts.
- Original writing for a real-world purpose on a topical language issue.
- Analysis of how children acquire language.
- Language in the media (including language and power/gender/technology).
- How language changes over time.
- An investigation into an area of each learner’s particular individual interest.

What are lessons like?

Lots of lively discussion combined with short reading and writing tasks where you will explore a huge range of interesting and thought provoking texts. You’ll be asked to conduct research projects which you will then present to your peers and you’ll get a great deal of opportunity to work one on one with your teachers on your coursework. Gradually you will find the lessons become more like seminars, whilst the research and original writing processes involve you more in adult learning approaches. In other words, great preparation for life after sixth form.

What can it lead to?

Apart from a range of English courses at university (and there are lots of different ones), English Language is good for media and journalism, speech therapy, drama, Business

Studies, Communication Studies, Human Resource Management, Creative Writing, to name just a few.

Because it is so skills based and because skills like reading, writing and listening are so fundamental to everything then it combines beautifully with every set of A Level choices. Universities are keen on literate scientists for example!

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact L.Cafferty@qes.org.uk, P.Reid@qes.org.uk or F.Astbury@qes.org.uk