



# Blundell's

## TESOL POLICY

2016/17

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## INTRODUCTION

Roughly 12 per cent of the study body at Blundell's is made up of international students, coming from countries such as China, Thailand, Spain, Hong Kong, the USA, Germany, India, South Korea, Mexico, Japan and France. The majority are not native speakers of English and have lessons to improve their English language skills. Through the school's positive and inclusive approach, students are encouraged to feel at home and make friends with others from home and abroad.

## Entrance Requirements

We accept students who have a reasonable level of English for their age of entry, bearing in mind that pupils entering straight into examination year groups (Years 10, 11 and 12) need a level sufficient to allow them to access the curriculum.

## TESOL Department

The TESOL department is housed in three classrooms in the middle of the school campus. We have three qualified and experienced teachers, who also have experience of working and living abroad.

## TESOL Provision

We aim to help our students raise the level of their English, focus on academic English skills, and build their confidence to become successful users of English.

### Lessons

Students are allocated usually between 1 and 4 English lessons, according to need. These lessons may be timetabled at the same time that their peers have lessons in English as a first language, French or another language, Latin. Classes cover General English (grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, discourse; and reading, writing, listening and speaking skills) as well as subject support, e.g. command words and subject specific vocabulary and academic skills.

Lessons are usually in groups, but individual classes can also be arranged. Students may arrange an occasional extra lesson (if timetables allow) as required by speaking with their teacher. Students who arrive with a very high level of English, who do not need TESOL lessons, may also arrange an occasional individual class if they would like some support with a specific piece of coursework or skill, e.g. essay writing.

### Cambridge IGCSE E2L

In Year 11, students sit the IGCSE exam in English as a Second Language. This exam tests reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, and has an academic focus in that students are required to read a text to extract specific information in order to write notes and a summary. Preparation for the exam may be done in a one-year course (in Year 11) or two-year course (starting in Year 10). The exam is sat at the beginning of the summer term.

### IELTS

Many of our international students apply to universities in the UK. In order to satisfy entry requirements, they need to attain a certain grade in the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam. We offer IELTS preparation classes to students in Years 12-13. These classes focus on exam skills, speaking, academic writing, academic reading, and academic listening. We recommend students prepare for the exam during the autumn and spring terms, take a mock exam in school, and sit the exam only when they are confident of getting the desired grade.

IELTS testing takes place monthly at Exeter College and currently costs £155. In certain cases, if they are applying to a university not listed as a Tier 4 sponsor, students may need to take the IELTS for UKVI test, which costs around £200.

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There is no difference in the test itself, only in the administration. The nearest IELTS UKVI centres are in London, Cardiff and Bournemouth. The school can register students for the exam on their behalf.

### **TESOL Clinic**

Students may choose TESOL Clinic to be their activity once a week. This is an opportunity to ask the TESOL teacher for help with any work they are having trouble with or simply to catch up.

The department is proud of its positive and supportive relationships with its pupils. The small size of the classes allow the teachers to get to know individual pupils well, and provide an additional level of pastoral care as well as academic support. All students receiving TESOL lessons will have two tutorials per year, where they meet on a one-to-one basis with a TESOL teacher for an informal chat about their English language learning and how it affects their other subjects and school life in general. The TESOL teachers communicate regularly with tutors and subject teachers and if extra language support is deemed necessary, it can be arranged.

### **International Committee**

The international committee is made up of international student volunteers from each year at Blundell's. With the support of teachers, they organise international social evenings and other events to promote cultural awareness and understanding.

Reviewed by EJGL  
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