

English as a Second Language



What the pupils say.....

Monkton is such a friendly environment; it's my second home!"



"Life at Monkton actually involves lots of hard work but you make real friendships for life."



"At Monkton we live together with lots of nice people and work really hard!"

"Lots of different nationalities make our lives more interesting."



Overseas students at Monkton Senior

Students from overseas have been an important feature of Monkton for many years. At present we have over 50 students from approximately fifteen different countries.

It is a relationship which offers much to both parties: the students gain the opportunity to live and study in a British environment, to experience British culture and to benefit from the best of British education in a school with a Christian ethos. The School for its part, is greatly enriched by the presence of students from many different cultures bringing their own unique contribution to the life of the School.



The International Student Society

Overseas students at Monkton Senior have the opportunity to join the International Student Society. The aim of the Society is to provide a social focus for overseas students, but more importantly, to bring together students – all the students at the School who have a broad international perspective. The Society organises events to increase the students' understanding of British culture, and also to reflect and celebrate their own cultures. Activities include inviting visiting speakers, organising trips out and putting on cultural events in the School.



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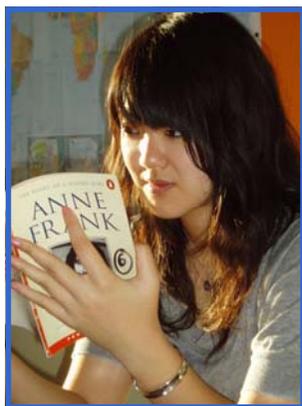
At Monkton we are committed to giving overseas students the support they need in developing their English to an appropriate level for study in this country.

A dedicated, fully-equipped English as a Second Language Centre acts as a focus for English as a Second Language teaching. The Centre consists of three classrooms for small group teaching or one-to-one tutorials. It is well resourced and has a specialist extensive reading area.



Our Teaching Approach

The teaching of English as a Second Language is carried out by a well-qualified, experienced team of five members of staff. Attention is given to developing all of the four language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing, with particular emphasis given to the latter two which are so crucial to academic success. There are three main elements addressed in our language teaching;



- There is an emphasis on general language work to raise the students' overall ability in English.
- There is specific work on the kind of English that they need to be successful in academic subjects in the GCSEs, AS, A2 and degree level.
- We prepare students for the specialist English as a Second Language examinations that overseas students need to take to enter both the Sixth Form and British Universities.

English as a Second Language Courses

Students are tested prior to their arrival to assess their level of need for language support. The number of hours of English teaching provided ranges from three hours a week for those studying at A2 level, up to twelve hours a week for younger students on a more intensive course, who have arrived with just a basic level of English. Our aim is to raise their level of English to a point where students will be able to study effectively in English. This varies from individual to individual, but the following patterns tend to occur;

Years 7 – 9: depending on need, overseas students can have ESL lessons instead of mainstream English, Modern Languages and History. Most students will have ten or eleven lessons a week. Internal examinations are taken in June each year, with an additional exam session for year 9 in October.

Years 10 – 11: Students have ESL lessons instead of mainstream English, and, unless very competent in English, in one of their GCSE option blocks, resulting in nine lessons a week. At the end of year 11, students will either take the GCSE for native speakers or the IGCSE in English as a Second Language.

Year 12 - 13: Students study ESL instead of the Critical Thinking Course. They follow the two-year IELTS course for five lessons a week in year 12, and four lessons in year 13. One of these lessons each week is dedicated to developing intensive and extensive reading skills.



ESL Examinations

Students at Monkton are entered for exams at various levels as they progress in the language, including the IGCSE English as a Second Language and the International English Language Testing Syndicate exams (IELTS). These exams give students the necessary qualifications to go on to study at Sixth Form level, University and other forms of Higher Education.

To enter a UK University, students will need to obtain a good IELTS score. There are nine bands, the top four of which are described as follows:

9 Expert User

Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.

8 Very Good User

Has fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.

7 Good User

Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

6 Competent User

Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

While some university courses are prepared to accept students with 6.5, many universities request a level 7 or above.



For further information about English as a second language at Monkton please contact:

Mrs Carrie Morley (Head of ESL) e: morleycs@monkton.org.uk

Mrs Issy Hartnell (Registrar) e: admissions@monkton.org.uk

