

## **EAL Policy**

### **Context**

Each year MPW Birmingham admits a number of students for whom English is their second language. Typically this amounts to no more than 10 students and in some years no more than one or two. In either case, a robust system of support is in place. The overall purpose of MPW's EAL provision is to enable students to attain a level of English sufficient to support them in GCSE and A level studies, to improve their use of English as a whole and, in most cases, prepare them to sit the IELTS examination. Students who are intending to apply to a UK University during one and two year A level programmes are timetabled lessons typically focused towards the requirements of this test. IELTS is a measure of aptitude in four assessed areas of: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Students are given Band Scores, ranging from 1 to 9, in each of these areas, as a result of undertaking an externally run and assessed test at a local centre (Aston University). In UCAS applications, or in conditions of offers made, the results of this test can be fundamental to the success, or otherwise, of entry to a UK University.

### **Aims**

- To work with subject specialists and Personal Tutors to identify needs, implement strategies and monitor progress with regard to language acquisition and use
- To foster good practice in terms of teaching and pastoral support to ensure the needs of EAL students are met
- To ensure that EAL students are not excluded or marginalised from mainstream academic and extra-curricular provision
- To ensure that the quality of EAL students spoken and written English is not an impediment to securing academic qualifications commensurate with their abilities
- To achieve the best possible score in IELTS
- To integrate work done in EAL lessons with work done in main subjects
- To build and maintain a bank of resources to support learning provision

### **Definition of EAL Students at MPW**

EAL students at MPW are those students whose first language is not English who need additional support in English for them to pursue their studies effectively.

### **Identification, Assessment and Monitoring**

Students requiring EAL support are usually identified during the admissions process, at interview. At times, enrolled students may be identified as needing

language support by their subject tutors or Personal Tutor. Some students may request language support themselves during the course of their studies. Tutors write full EAL subject reports for each student every half-term, as for GCSE and A level subjects, including an effort mark, test results and an attainment grade. The report outlines progress in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening during the preceding half term and sets targets and offers advice for the succeeding one. EAL students are, of course, also monitored by their subject tutors on an ongoing basis in terms of class participation, quality of homework and performance in tests.

### **Types of Support Available**

For A level students classes are created to work specifically towards the IELTS test and form part of their normal weekly timetable. The overall approach is communicative and supportive, with an emphasis on the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Building up and consolidating vocabulary banks, as well as aiming for a more complete understanding of grammar are also significant areas. Students are encouraged to bring work for other subjects with which they need help. Subject tutors liaise with EAL tutors so that the teaching of subject specific vocabulary and writing skills pertinent to particular subjects can be integrated into EAL lessons. Where additional support is required or requested a one-to-one or small group class may be created with a specific focus: English for Law and English for Science being typical examples.

GCSE students who are not expected to undertake IELTS until Year 12 or 13 are offered one-to-one or small group class support to build their capacity to perform in their subjects.

### **Subject specific vocabulary lists**

EAL tutors liaise with subject tutors in producing subject specific lists.

### **Pastoral Support**

There is an understanding that overseas students are often confronted with a different set of problems to deal with than most of our other students. There should be some awareness that there may be an element of pastoral support, in conjunction with Personal Tutors, involved.

### **Special Examination Access Arrangements**

EAL students who have been in the UK less than two years are allowed extra time in examination in order to use dictionaries.