

## Academic Ambitions: Curriculum, Courses & Outcomes

Intellectual, ethical and existential content for linguistic, propositional and procedural outcomes.

### Curriculum Philosophy Statement

The curriculum at Newbury Hall develops students' academic literacy across the disciplines. Our courses are meaningful because they broaden interests and purposeful because they further ambitions. Our students develop a confidence founded on genuine improvements in their knowledge and skills, and in increasingly proficient English. Academically literate students can generate both informed and personal opinions in increasingly proficient English, and enjoy being challenged by teachers they respect.

A blend of traditional methodology and contemporary innovations supported by robust research findings provides clear structure within which our teachers can be optimally responsive to our students. We treat each class as a small community of individuals in which we can effectively support and challenge all prior abilities, whilst the variety of lesson types can simply cater for those seeking a more satisfying academic experience.

Rigorous entry profiling and progress monitoring are, of course, an essential element in the curriculum. Reports and updates to parents and a close relationship between our residence and academic teams ensure that we are all working together in the best interests of each student, whilst regular certificates and awards ensure that progress and excellence are rewarded and motivation to succeed continues to grow.

### Course - Intensive Academic Literacy

Academic literacy is the foundation underpinning creative knowledge. The overarching aim of the Intensive Academic Literacy programme is to develop students' linguistic, propositional and procedural capabilities to help them successfully face the challenges of understanding and responding creatively to complex ideas in English. Lessons typically operate at CEFR B1, B2 and C1 levels, with lower and higher classes opened as hoc.

Outcomes are organised around:

- English language (linguistic capability)
- General knowledge (propositional capability)
- Academic skills (procedural capability)

The Intensive Academic Literacy programme has been designed to prepare children for the intellectual and social rigours of life at a British boarding school, and we also welcome applications for a week or more any time at all from those simply interested in improving their English.

Lessons enliven the mind and emotions through a combination of extensive literacy support, debates, global cultural issues, careers & university exploration, inspiring biographies, discursive art, guided research projects, writing craft workshops, embedded and reactive grammar and pronunciation, eloquence workshops, training in philosophical thinking, etc. Mathematics and the sciences may also be included on request.

By the end of a course, depending on length and level, students will be confident in tackling KS3-5 materials.

## **Course - Intensive Exam Skills**

For students wishing to prepare for language exams such as IELTS, CAE, FCE, etc our exam skills classes offer challenges by which children can prove their potential to themselves. Our methodology focuses on vocabulary acquisition, exam practice and feedback above all as the main predictors of proficiency gains, and students can expect to be driven very far by teachers dedicated to their exam success: progress is very regularly monitored and expectations for an ambitious attitude from students is high.

Every week the programme covers all the exam skills and a range of vocabulary, so students can come and go anytime and take the exam after any number of weeks whenever they feel ready. There is ample homework and we consider students' autonomous study habits and eagerness to read widely to be success factors that are as important as lessons themselves.

At the teacher's discretion some lessons on the programme can be the same as those for Intensive Academic Literacy in order to build vocabulary or ensure that ethical issues, etc play a large part in students' experience.