Course Summary
At AS Level:
Component 1 looks at textual variations and representations in language. This involves consolidating and refining your understanding of English grammar; looking at different modes of written English and considering how language is used in areas such as gender, occupation and social groups.
Component 2 focuses on language diversity including sociolects, dialects and the language used to represent these groups.
Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities across both components.
At A Level:
Component 1 of the A Level course follows much of the same content as the AS; however, it also builds upon the knowledge acquired by studying language development in children from 0-10 years, comprising of spoken and written language.
Similarly, Component 2, language diversity, develops the subject further by also examining language change in society. This involves the study of a range of texts from different periods ranging from 1600 through to present day. Furthermore, Component 2 of the A Level adds a further module on language discourses. This scrutinises differing attitudes to language issues in today’s society, featuring enquiry along the lines of whether or not there is a right or wrong way of speaking; whether language should change and more besides.

Course Assessment
AS Level – Two 90 minute written examinations.
A Level – Two 2.5 hour written examinations (80%), a 2,000 word assignment, an original piece of writing of 500 words with a 1000 word commentary of 1,000 words (20%).

What to do afterwards
There are many English Language degrees offered at a range of universities while the subject at A Level is well respected for entry onto many other courses. English Language develops students’ ability to analyse and communicate effectively, two key areas that are required for many careers.

Reading around the subject
Considering this subject? Take a look on YouTube at “English Language” or anything by David Crystal.

Entry Requirements: You need to have achieved a Grade 5 in English Language GCSE

“I’m taking English Language because I find the history of ours and other languages extremely interesting. Learning about diversity in English fascinates me and so far the study of RP is my favourite topic. This course also links really well into my other A levels.” Poppy studying Drama, English Language & German

Why study this subject?
Want to understand why Shakespearean English is so different to how we speak today? If it is “to boldly go” or “boldly to go”? Or why babies often say “Dada” before “Mama”? English Language is a fantastic subject for any students considering careers in social sciences, education or communications as well as those who simply have a fascination with understanding the development of language, both historically and physically.