

# Scanbrit

Intensive English

Active English

Research based learning programme



# Independent learning under tutor guidance

This is a programme for learners looking to communicate effectively in English either for academic or occupational purposes.

Students gain an understanding of the importance of strong communication skills within the context of a successful academic or professional environment.

The concept of the course is anchored around research based learning. Students grow their own knowledge under the guidance of the tutors.



# The pedagogy

Skills in a language are defined by the level of competency in using it, usually measured against mother tongue coherence. First language expertise is rightly associated with clarity of communication and depth of thoughtful expression. This challenges the conventional wisdom of language teaching as accuracy and fluency.

Mastery of a language is only reached when it can be used on an equal footing with one's first language: from small talk to formulating complex ideas: the capacity to debate scholarly subjects, share opinions, convince an audience, exchange spontaneous pleasantries and deliver unprepared presentations on a variety of subjects such as art, literature, politics, religion, sciences etc.

Potent language skills are not achieved by spending hours being taught in the classroom, but through diligently probing into questions such as how to say it, what does it mean, what is a good word, why doesn't a sentence feel right, is mother tongue interfering; and all this within the context of real life issues, both academic and topical (current affairs).

The knowledge originates from the learner and thus fertilises its instinctive use (in contrast to knowledge pushed by the teacher).

This pedagogic design affords extensive study assignments prior to a thorough guided review with the teacher.

'The role of the tutor is not to create lesson plans, but to drive the student to create their own learning plan.'



## Research based learning

For academic and occupational qualifications

The real value of this programme of learning is in its retention level: so often what is taught gets quickly forgotten: this active research approach followed by tutor guidance ensures that a lot more of what is learned turns into spontaneous reflexes that refines the student's level of fluency.

# The programme content

The concept of the course is anchored around research based learning, or active study.

Students are given projects to work on for all areas of their language development needs:

- grammar is not based on exercises but on understanding the rules before the time spent with the tutor to sharpen accuracy.
- vocabulary building: students expand their lexicon by researching collocation, synonyms, word patterns/ word families, etc and spending the time with the tutor refining the results of their research.
- reading is by definition an individual exercise which students work on before the tutor checks their comprehension ability.
- writing skills are developed through essay writing on a variety of general knowledge subjects. The essay is marked with the tutor with helpful explanations to improve the next essay.
- listening: podcasts are analysed in the students' own time in the school prior to the time spent with the tutor who will assess the calibre of receptive skills and guide the students towards improved listening techniques.
- speaking: although this is considered as one single skill, the school works on the multiple facets of speaking skills: fluency, pace, pronunciation, intonation, diction within a variety of contexts such as a private conversation, a group discussion, a presentation or a speech. Oratory skills are developed through various forms of exercises that students are asked to practise before the lesson (often the day before the speaking lesson with the tutor): it can be in the form of a negotiation, a presentation, a lecture, etc.
- exam techniques: the course aims at making students exam literate, fully aware of the examiners' expectations. This constitutes a solid map for gaining the relevant competencies to approach the exam with serenity.
- occupational English skills: students nowadays have a limitless palette of options for their further education. This course is devised to allow students to focus on the individual requirements of their chosen future occupation.



## The cultural experience





# Accommodation and extra-curricular activities

## Homestay

Staying in a homestay gives participants the chance to be fully immersed into the local culture, while also being able to practise English in a relaxed and natural setting.

Students broaden their scope in their use of the language and become familiar with expressing themselves in English. Homestay hosts provide meals for students, which allows mealtimes to become an opportunity for students to use their English in real-life situations.

Staying with a local host allows students insights that expands their cultural knowledge alongside the development of their language skills. Homestay hosts are able to offer a unique perspective on the local area and its culture, which enriches the student's time and experience.

## Lifestyle

The school is located in Southbourne, on the edge of Bournemouth and in the county of Dorset on the south coast of England.

Homestay hosts are situated close to the school and the beach is a two minute walk from the school. The school is located in a residential area with a strong sense of local community.

The county of Dorset includes many areas of outstanding beauty and is also within easy access of London and Oxford.

Weekends can be spent exploring the coastline and countryside. Walking and cycling are popular activities all year round. There are fast rail connections from Bournemouth to other parts of England.

