

**Course Start**

Course Start is independent learning you need to complete as a fundamental part of your introduction to the course. It should take you approximately 5 hours to complete.

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| Course Name | **GCSE English Language**  |
| **How this Course Start fits into the first term of the course** | * It will provide us with useful information about your GCSE progress so far
* The ability to write descriptively and imaginatively underpins Paper 1/ Section B, so practising creative writing is key to success at GCSE
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| **How will my Course Start learning be used in lessons?** | * The questionnaire will enable us to consider your strengths & areas to develop in English this year
* It will highlight eligibility for the Nov resit if you are someone with a Grade 3 already in English Language GCSE.
* It will inform us whether you have done a Speaking & Listening assessment at school or need to do one at college
* The descriptive writing task can also provide a stimulus for Speaking & Listening for those who need to complete this part of the qualification
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| **Course Start learning objectives** | * To reflect and evaluate strengths and areas to develop
* To practising creative writing
* To proofread and draft
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| **Study Skills** | * Self-reflection
* Creative writing
* Proofreading for accuracy
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**Expectations for: English Language GCSE**

Our specification is: AQA GCSE | English Language

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| **What this course involves:** This is a fast-track, one-year GCSE English Language course involving wider reading and building on written and spoken skills. There are two main units for this qualification:

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| **PAPER 1:**● A written exam (1 hour/45 minutes)● 50% of GCSE/ 80 marks● Analysing a literature fiction text and creative, descriptive writing  | **PAPER 2:**● A written exam (1 hour/45 minutes)● 50% of GCSE/ 80 marks● Analysis/comparison of 19th-21st Century nonfiction texts and writing to persuade |

**NON-EXAM SPOKEN ASSESSMENT:**● Teacher-assessed in the autumn term. *(This mark is carried through from school, if you have already done it.)* |

**ENGLISH COURSE START**

Your name: Date:

Former school/ college:

Grade in GCSE English Language:

Grade in GCSE English Literature *(if you took it)*:

Have you previously had any additional support or exam concessions? If so, give details:

What do you consider your strengths to be in English?

Which areas do you think you need to develop this year?

Which activities do you enjoy doing in English *(e.g. reading, creative writing etc)*?

What are your goals in English at Varndean?

What was the last book you read? *(This could be fiction or nonfiction.)*

Please feel free to add anything else that would be useful for us to know, in order to help you succeed in English this year.

**CREATIVE WRITING**

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| **Write a story about a new beginning*****OR*****Write a description inspired by this picture*** You could write about a person, place or event.
* Write 3 or more paragraphs.
* Include a metaphor or simile, and engaging adjectives and verbs.
* Check your spelling and punctuation.
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