What do you particularly enjoy about studying English Language?

I like how English Language is quite a wide-ranging subject. I find it interesting as you look at both old and new texts, as well as other components like speech and how we write in 21st century. Our lessons tend to be quite informal when we debate answers, but they are always very purposeful and informative.

How much work is involved? (hours in lessons / outside of lessons)

There is less actual content to learn than other subjects as quite a few of the questions will be unseen, however you will still need to remember certain things like case studies, terms, and how to analyse a text, so you will still need to spend a considerable amount of time focusing on the course. You will begin by learning the basics of the subject and building up your skill set before then moving into more extended, longer answers.

If you studied the subject at GCSE how different is studying it at A Level/BTEC Level 3?

Compared to GCSE, A Level English Language is quite different as there are plenty of new topics that you will not have studied before. The subject is very analytically based, where you have to investigate the meanings of certain parts of the text, whilst using lots of new terms. However, the basic analysis points and terms you will have learned will still be very useful if you decide to take it at Carmel.
How are you assessed and how regularly?
In English Language we do quite a lot of longer pieces of work as assessments as it is an essay-based subject, but we also tend to do shared presentations and group work fairly regularly as well. 20% of the course is coursework which you will be given lots of support with, as your tutor will advise you with the data and question you choose through multiple 1 to 1 sessions. You are given plenty of drafts to do this in order to perfect it, so that might be beneficial for you if you perhaps struggle under the pressure of exams.

What support have you received and is support available if you don’t understand something?
If you are ever unsure on a specific part of the course, you can always ask your tutor directly for help and guidance on that particular topic. Alternately, there are a lot of resources on the English Language Connect page which are very easy to access and can be very beneficial as well. After the end of every assessment you will be given individual and whole class feedback with an example of a piece of writing that scored highly, so this could also help prevent you from struggling on this topic in the future.

Have you received careers support and what are your future plans?
All your tutors at Carmel will always be happy to talk to you if you ever need some advice or guidance on what to do after your time at the college. The Careers office is also available for information on all sorts of things such as university choices, work experience, personal statements or even just advice on what you should pursue in your future career.
Visit our website for more information about our A Level English Language course