

## EAL provision at Copleston

Hello, hi, buna, hei, bonjour and welcome to Copleston! This is a brief guide to provision for students who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) at the school.

### What is EAL?

It's easier to explain what is not – EAL is not a learning disability nor is it a Special Educational Need. It can be a learning barrier but, like all barriers, it can be overcome. Carers whose children have EAL can tick the EAL box on our application form. This alerts the school to any additional needs the student(s) might have. There are about 200 students with EAL at Copleston which is 11% of our student population. Languages range from Bengali to Turkish to Portuguese. Research shows that being able to speak two or more languages puts that person at an immediate academic advantage as students with more than language outperform their peers at GCSE and beyond.

### My child is EAL; what happens at Copleston to support them?

If your child needs support, they'll get support. This might be through intervention, in-class support through a classroom assistant, one of our Young Interpreters or one of our year 12 support team or through differentiated tasks set by the teacher. Copleston has the highest expectations of all our students at all times and the same standard, effort, attitude and ethos will be expected of your child. Once your child is lucky enough to gain a place here, there will be an initial assessment period during which the EAL co-ordinator will speak to your child, go into lessons to observe progress, gather information and data from teachers and classroom assistants and make a judgement about your child's aptitude in English. This judgement will, of course, change over time – most EAL students come to Copleston and make very rapid progress in both their lessons and in acquiring English. There may be some students who need additional support and the EAL co-ordinator will monitor and evaluate your child's progress accordingly. A tailor-made programme is put together for each student but this changes over time and it may be the case that support is apparently withdrawn which means that your child's English has progressed to a sufficient level.

### What else is offered?

A number of opportunities are available for EAL students. For example, we are always in need of Young Interpreters. These are students who support other students in class and may be called on to assist with other duties at Open Evening, for example. Being a Young Interpreter is a privilege as the Young Interpreter represents the school. You can see our Young Interpreters at a glance on a visit to our school as they wear green hoodies. The team currently comprises speakers of Romanian, Portuguese, Polish, Arabic and Chinese Mandarin. We also have a group of year 12 students who volunteer to support EAL students across the curriculum and we have a dedicated team of classroom assistants who support students across the school. There is an opportunity to enter your child for their first or home language GCSE when they are 16. Entries thus far have included Arabic, Portuguese, Polish, Turkish, Chinese Mandarin, Cantonese and German. We have a close relationship with a local translation company that helps us if needed. There is a morning English conversation club. Lastly, we are most fortunate to have a Romanian interpreter and translator on our staff. There is a strong team ethos at Copleston and your child will benefit from this.

### How can I help my child at home?

There are several strategies available to you:

- Watch a film in English at least once a week and always have the English subtitles on. Then you'll see and hear English. This will help you to learn English quickly.
- Buy or borrow a good dictionary. Google Translate is acceptable for single words or short phrases but please don't rely on it!
- Have an English talk radio on in the car when you travel. I suggest BBC Radio 4, or the BBC World Service or BBC Radio Five Live. These stations have no music but, by listening, you'll hear the cadence and tone of English.
- Have a weekly English room at home. For example, use the kitchen at first by labelling everything you can in English on a sticky note and putting that note on the object. The kettle will be labelled, the cooker, the washing machine etc. Whenever you use that object, the whole family must use the English word. Then take the sticky notes off and label a different room the following week and so on.
- Have an English Hour every day – I suggest over supper in the evening. During that hour, the whole family must only speak English. It may be very quiet at first but it will help you to practise vocabulary.
- Finally, don't forget that your first or home language is very important. Keep speaking it at home and with your friends. It's very important because you'll compare English grammar with the grammar of your home or first language and that will make learning quicker.

#### What else do I need to know?

If you've come straight from another country, be prepared for your child(ren) to be upset. They'll be confused, feel lost and may insist that the family "go home". They'll miss their friends and they may take time to settle. The advice is to stay, to persist and not give up. I don't know of a single EAL student at Copleston who has not made friends and who has continued to be upset.

#### How do I get in touch?

Contact me:

[rkeeble@copleston.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:rkeeble@copleston.suffolk.sch.uk)

Or phone the school or you can write a note or letter to me and I'll get it translated. Just get in touch – there are no stupid questions.

#### Useful websites

<https://www.esolcourses.com/content/topicsmenu/beginners.html>

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/>

See below for more specific information:

**Ofsted, the government body that inspects schools, reported that Copleston is a good school with outstanding features.**

#### Where is the school?

A map can be found on our home page under *ABOUT US* then *Location/Map*.

#### Uniform

All students who join the school in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required to wear uniform. There are images of what is acceptable on our home page under the *STUDENTS* link then

click on *UNIFORM* then scroll down the page to the images. Students are expected to wear correct uniform from their first day. Students who do not comply with our rules may be sent home. The school sweatshirt is available from PMG Schoolwear in Westgate Street in Ipswich. The specified trousers and PE kit are available from Coes on Norwich Road in Ipswich.

### **Parent Pay**

We will take your child's fingerprint when they come to school. This allows them to get food and refreshments at school without having to carry cash. Carers are responsible for making sure that enough money is in their child's account to pay for meals. The library operates a similar system. Breakfast is offered along with snacks at break and meals at lunchtime.

### **The curriculum**

All students study English Language, English Literature, mathematics and science from the ages of 11-16. All students also take part in PE lessons until they are 16. We provide each student with basic equipment such as paper, exercise books and text books. The student is responsible for having pens, pencils, rulers and other equipment. All students are expected to participate fully in all lessons.

### **The school day**

Students register at 0825 and are marked late at 0830. Students then attend lessons as follows:

0840-0945 period 1

0945-1050 period 2

1050-1110 break (a warning bell sounds at 1105)

1110-1215 period 3

1215-1300 lunch

1300-1405 period 4

1405-1510 period 5

School closes at 1405 each Wednesday. There are a variety of clubs and activities available for students and all students are encouraged to attend.

### **Term dates**

These can be found on our home page *ABOUT US* then *COPLESTON CALENDAR*.

### **Behaviour**

Students are expected to come to school ready to learn. Students must obey all school rules. For example, no mobile phones are to be used in lessons and eating in lessons is not acceptable. Students who disobey school rules will be subject to sanctions. Racism, homophobia, sexism and all other types of discrimination or bullying are not tolerated.

### **Homework**

This is set regularly and **must** be completed. Failure to complete homework tasks will result in a sanction.

### **Rewards**

Students who achieve well and who try hard in lessons will be rewarded.

### **Sanctions**

These are usually detentions and can vary according to the context. Failure to attend detentions will result in an escalation of punishments resulting in exclusion in very severe cases. This is very rare at Copleston.

### **Log books**

These are issued free to all students. The log book

- Contains essential information about the school
- Is a record of homework set with due dates – the student is responsible for recording homework
- Contains that student's timetable
- Is a means through which carers can communicate with the school if necessary
- Is the student's responsibility
- Can be asked for at any time by any teacher

### **Contact us**

Details of how to do this are on our homepage.