



## TEACHING: OUR APPROACH

At UIC Vacation we are very proud of our high academic standard and student-centered teaching program. We use the communicative method of teaching focusing on speaking and listening skills blended with other modern teaching methods. Our teachers have appropriate teaching qualifications and many have a great deal of experience teaching children and teenagers. Students study English for a minimum of 15 hours a week and these classes are divided into Functional English, English Skills and Active English.

### Functional English:

Your children will learn how to use English in many practical situations which they can practice during the activities and excursions they will take part in during their time with us. They will learn how to communicate with people with confidence and fluency and how to function in daily activities in English to become independent English speakers. Each lesson has an English production section for the students to practice the English they have learned while using their own ideas in a guided learning environment.

### English skills:

Your children will practise speaking, listening, reading and writing over a one week study period. The speaking and listening skills are practised in every lesson with a focus on pronunciation, understanding, fluency and confidence. The reading and writing skills are practiced weekly to develop and support new vocabulary learned in class. The skills lessons support the functional English lessons to reinforce and practice the vocabulary and grammar your children have learned.

### Active English:

Your children will study English in our specialist course that teaches English through a specialism. With teacher guidance the classes decide and choose a specialism (drama English, Business English, comedy, music, multimedia podcasting) to study and learn skills within that specialism. The class then showcases a demonstration of those skills to the school in an end of week presentation.

Our students learn the following skills in active English courses which combine English language learning and specialist training within the area studied. Team work is a very important part of the Active English course, your children will learn to work together and support each other in a fun, inventive and exciting English class.

Active English course	Specialist skills	English skills
<b>Drama</b>	Acting stage direction voice projection play writing light and sound engineering set and costume design Team work	Confidence in using English Using intonation to convey attitude and emotion Writing dialogue Understanding technical terms used on stage Improvisation
<b>Business</b>	Holding meetings Giving presentations Making proposals Interviewing techniques	Formal English Language for making suggestions and persuading Generating ideas, team writing

	Negotiating strategies Understanding and using body language to promote yourself professionally	and editing Understanding and using business terminology
<b>Music</b>	Understanding music genres Reviewing music Packaging and promoting music through fashion Album design Scheduling and planning itineraries Understanding and writing lyrics interviews	Understanding and using rhythm and rhyme Understanding and using metaphors and idioms Using adjectives accurately Understanding and writing lyrics Language for making suggestions and persuading others
<b>Multimedia podcasting</b>	Generating ideas Researching and choosing popular topics Researching existing podcasts and radio programs arranging, editing and recording the program pronunciation, intonation and fluency.	Skim and scan reading Using intonation to highlight the main idea Using clear Pronunciation Generating ideas, team writing and editing Formal English and informal English Language for conducting successful interviews
<b>Comedy (For upper-intermediate and advanced levels only)</b>	Stand up comedy techniques Confidence building and presenting Improvisation Using props Mime and body language to assist public speaking Delivering punch lines and timing Managing audiences Public speaking Identifying with audiences	Understanding puns Understanding and using idioms, metaphors and similes Story telling Understanding different types of jokes Using intonation to convey attitude and emotion Understanding and using slang and irony Language to evaluate performance

### **Our syllabus**

Our syllabus has been written especially for our students and uses modern supporting books (English in Mind, Cool English and New English Parade) and materials to create a productive multicultural learning environment. The syllabus has been designed to:

**consolidate** your children’s existing knowledge of the language to increase fluency and confidence in English language use

**explore** the language in total English emersion to gain aspects of English your children wouldn’t normally discover in their own countries

**progress** your children’s knowledge of English with confidence and support to achieve a higher level of English across all skills

Our syllabus has been designed to address the following student needs:

Preparation for the Trinity GESE speaking exams

Using English successfully on the excursion program

Using English successfully to make friends with other students

Using English to successfully communicate on a day to day basis within the summer school

Understanding and using informal phrases that are typically used by native language speakers (e.g. “off you go” meaning “please begin”)

## **Levels**

Our classes are divided by age and level to promote optimum language learning at the appropriate level of maturity of your children. Our syllabus covers a range of levels from complete beginner to proficiency with negotiated syllabuses based on the student needs at higher levels.

The age groups are as follows:

Tigers 7-10

Mainstream 11-14

Seniors 15-17

## **Placement test**

Every student is given a placement test before they are placed in a class, usually on the day after they arrive at the school, to give them a chance to settle in. This is a written and spoken test that will be used to determine their current level of English usage. The placement test has been designed to encourage your children to use English as naturally as possible with the minimum of stress so we can accurately place them in a level they will find challenging and interesting while giving them attainable learning goals.

## **Teachers**

Our teachers come from a variety of teaching backgrounds and are dedicated to the language development of your children in classes that motivate, guide, and inspire your children. All our teachers have appropriate teaching qualifications. We understand how important it is for children to feel comfortable in their classes and learn English in a positive learning environment. So our teachers work very closely with the students, helping them make friends with students of other nationalities and allowing them to fully express themselves while guiding them in their language development. Our teachers are always ready to help your children with any questions they have about English, the school, Britain or anything else they need.

Each class has two teachers, one for the Functional and Active English and the second for the English skills class. This helps our students to get to know more people in the teaching team which helps them to settle into the school environment, it also helps them to understand different accents to develop their English knowledge. Our teachers plan together to ensure that their lessons support previous learning and discuss student needs and progress daily to adjust their teaching methods and lessons accordingly.

## **Teacher training**

Teacher development and training is at the heart of our success. The teaching team is supported by our Director of Studies who is highly qualified with a wealth of experience working with young learners and teenagers. Our teachers are observed regularly and attend training sessions each week to support and develop their teaching skills in relation to your children's needs.

## **Student folder**

Each student is given a student folder at the beginning of their course which contains their progress chart. This progress chart is completed every day by the students to track their work done, progress in English and classroom behaviour. The student folder also contains information about the school, Ascot, the excursions and worksheets to help the students make friends and get to know the staff. Any written work done in class or handouts given will go onto the student folder so your children can organize their work and create a portfolio of their English learning experience.