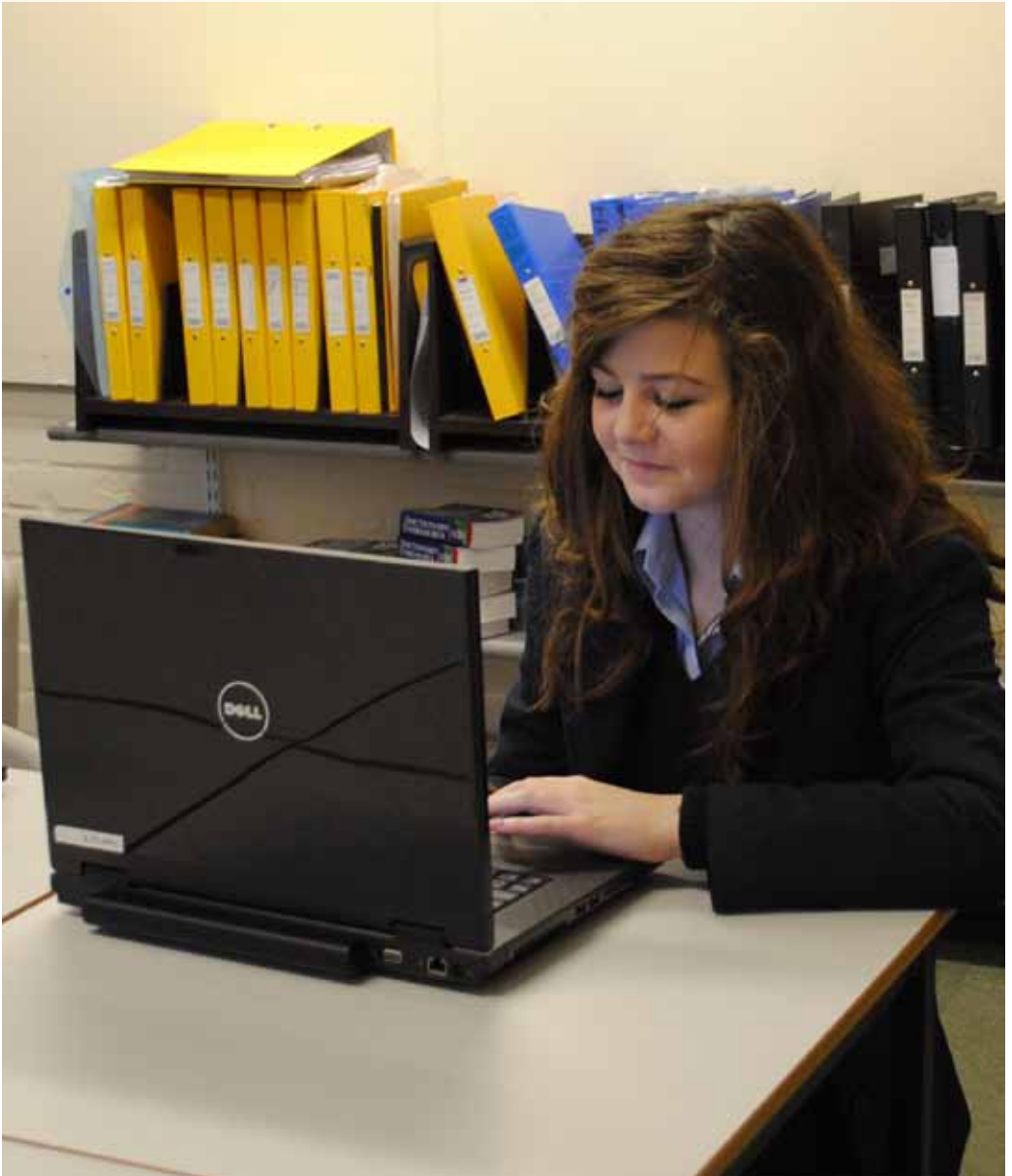




MILLFIELD

Learning Support Centre (LSC)



What provision is made for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)?

Year 9

Pupils may be taught English by an LSC Tutor who will follow the same curriculum as the mainstream English Department but may teach at a slightly slower pace and in a more multi-sensory way;

A very small number of pupils are withdrawn from the study of a modern foreign language, by special agreement, if their literacy skills remain significantly weak; in place of their language lessons they have lessons within the LSC as part of a group to address literacy difficulties and study skills;

Pupils with a higher level of academic ability may be set into higher level groups who would normally take two foreign languages. They may be withdrawn from the second foreign language in order to have LSC support

lessons but will not have English with an LSC tutor;

Pupils can access help and advice both before school and during lunchtime workshops within the LSC. There is excellent access to laptops for the use of assistive software and specialised programmes.

Years 10 and 11

Many pupils will continue to be taught English by an LSC tutor. Almost all pupils will take GCSE examinations in English Literature and Language. Pupils typically achieve grades A* - C. Very few students fall below a C grade.

Selected pupils may be recommended to have an LSC study support option in place of one of their option blocks. This gives them time to further develop literacy and study skills and to have greater flexibility and help with their work overall.

Pupils can access help and advice both before school and during lunchtime workshops within the LSC with ready access to networked laptops.



Sixth Form

Students will be given timetabled opportunities for on-going support and many will take advantage of this. This will often take place in small groups within the LSC.

A number of students may opt to have the flexibility of incorporating private study periods with LSC support; with the support being available only when students feel it necessary.

Students can also access help and advice both before school and during a lunchtime workshop within the LSC with ready access to networked laptops.

What are the main aims of Study Support Lessons?

To provide pupils with:

- Additional support and explanation in the course of their work;
- Help in the management of tasks;
- The development of literacy and study skills.

What are the key areas covered in study support sessions?

Approaches to Learning

- Target Setting
- Learning Styles

Multi-sensory learning

- Organisation
- Time Management
- Motivation

Writing Skills

- Research
- Note taking
- Planning – mind maps, writing frames etc
- Sequencing ideas
- Drafting and redrafting
- Editing
- Touch typing
- Spelling
- Proof reading

Reading Skills

- Reading for different purposes
- Reading for meaning
- Skimming and scanning
- Subject specific text and vocabulary

Revision

- Planning – creating a timetable
- Memory and learning
- Multi sensory revision techniques
- Time management

Exam technique

- Reading the exam paper
- Types of questions
- Time management
- Managing stress



How many pupils are in an LSC English or Study Support class?

There are usually no more than 8 in an LSC class, although this can increase in some other academic areas. Most classes are a mixture of boys and girls, boarding and day. The setting within groups will vary according to individual strengths and weaknesses and also by the subjects chosen for GCSE.

Can pupils have 1:1 help?

In extreme cases pupils may be offered individual tuition, but only where the group support that is outlined above is insufficient to meet a pupil's needs. These sessions will usually take place during timetabled study support sessions or private study periods in the Sixth Form. This level of support will incur an additional charge.

How many subjects may be taken at GCSE?

This reflects the particular needs of the individual and ongoing advice is given when decisions about optional subjects are being taken. The curriculum we offer is wide ranging and varied to accommodate our comprehensive intake. Most students take 9 or 10 GCSEs although some will take a smaller number.

Do the pupils have help with study skills and organisation?

Yes, this is part of the work we do with pupils within tutor groups, their subjects and as part of the LSC Study Support sessions.



How is prep managed for boarders?

Time is designated within the boarding houses for prep in the evenings. Pupils are expected to complete prep according to the published prep timetable. This is usually done independently, but if pupils need help or don't quite manage to finish, they can come to the LSC Workshops on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes. Laptop computers can be linked to the school intranet whilst pupils are in the boarding houses.

Are pupils encouraged to use personal computers?

Many pupils have their own laptop computers and these may be used within classrooms, by agreement, for note taking, essay writing etc. However, rather than carrying their own laptop around school many pupils prefer to take advantage of the good computer access around school.

Do the pupils see the LSC as a positive or a negative?

Most pupils are happy to say that the support they get in the LSC is valued and appreciated. The environment is friendly and supportive and students are keen to take full advantage of the support and facilities available to them. Due to the high numbers of students who are involved with the department, there is no sense of stigma attached.

Can pupils have exam access arrangements in internal and external exams?

Yes, pupils who meet the examination boards' criteria for access arrangements may be eligible for additional time, a reader, a scribe or the use of word-processors. These access arrangements must be supported by an up-to-date educational psychologist's assessment and must also be supported by school-based evidence to demonstrate the need.

An hourly charge is made for both internal and external exams where an outside invigilator has had to be brought in to act as a reader, scribe or to invigilate a pupil individually. (Information on current charging rates can be obtained from the Examinations Office)



What support is given to pupils with dyscalculia?

Lower Maths sets in Year 9 have an assigned sixth form 'Study Buddy' who will act as a valuable support for the Maths Tutor and are often perceived as a role model by the weaker pupils. Pupils in the lower sets in Years 10 and 11 will also benefit from this scheme.

In addition, some LSC pupils receive an extra period of mathematics every week, usually with one of our trained specialists in dealing with dyscalculic pupils. Here the emphasis is on basic numeracy and repetition – the key elements of reinforcement.

GCSE workshops occur three times weekly. Whilst any pupil may find these lunch time drop in sessions

useful, they only tend to get busy around examination time. Weaker pupils are encouraged to attend a regular workshop in order to obtain some additional 1:1 tuition.

Are the tutors at Millfield all qualified and experienced in working with pupils affected by specific learning difficulties?

As a large mainstream school working with a mainstream curriculum, it would not be reasonable to expect all subject tutors to have specialist qualifications in this field. However, LSC tutors are recruited with this in mind and if they do not have all the necessary qualifications upon appointment, they are guided carefully in their work and given training opportunities.





All new tutors are involved in a training programme which includes awareness-raising of teaching and learning issues in working with pupils with specific learning difficulties. There is a continuous programme of staff development in this area. Millfield has long been regarded as a 'dyslexia friendly school.'

What links are there between the LSC and other academic departments?

Millfield has a very comprehensive Management Information System (iSAMS) which gives all subject staff ready access to extensive information about pupils' learning difficulties in their classes and allows them to respond to their individual needs.

There is a group of representatives from each department who form a link with the LSC. Regular meetings and training sessions take place and this information is then fed back to their respective departments.

The LSC tutors are available to give advice and guidance to departments. The LSC department is very well-regarded within the school.

What feedback do parents get and how can they keep in touch?

There are termly subject and pastoral reports to which LSC tutors contribute for both LSC

English and LSC Study Support. Contact is also maintained between parents, Group Tutors and Houseparents. At the beginning of the school year parents are notified of the name and contact details of their child's LSC tutor and the LSC provision that has been put in place. All LSC Tutors or the Head of LSC can be contacted at their desks by telephone and email. In addition, contact may be made with the Group Tutor, Senior Tutor or Head of Year to discuss any concerns that arise.



For further information please contact:

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