

18 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **English and Media Centre A Level Language Conference**

The English department is excited to be able to offer the opportunity for all Year 13 A Level English Language students to attend above conference on Wednesday 19 November. The conference is an invaluable opportunity for students to gain further insights into ongoing language debates and linguistic research in areas that are covered by their A Level course. It is hoped that the students will be able to consolidate and develop their understanding of key sociolinguistic theories in preparation for their A Level examinations in May 2022. It will also allow students to experience what learning at higher education institutions will involve. The speakers and topics confirmed for the event are as follows:

- Professor Helen Sauntson (York, St Johns): Researching language, gender & sexuality
- Dr Tom Chatfield (author, tech philosopher and educator): Technology and language change
- Professor Jenny Cheshire (QMUL): The Story of MLE
- Dr George Bailey (University of York): Representing accent on social media
- Dr Robbie Love (Aston University): Tracking changes in swearing in spoken English

Students are asked to make their own way to the venue where they will be met by members of staff. We ask that all students ensure that they are at the venue to sign in with staff by 9.45am. Students will be dismissed from the conference when it finishes at 3.30pm when they will be able to make their own way home. The conference is being held at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ (directly opposite Euston Station). The event will last all day and students will need to bring a packed lunch with them, or purchase food prior to the start of the conference.

The cost of the conference is £28. Payment should be made electronically via [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) by Tuesday 2 November. If you experience any difficulty accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the Finance Department on [financequeries@wealdgs.org](mailto:financequeries@wealdgs.org). Parental permission is required and is included as part of the ParentPay transaction. Please ensure that you tick the box to show you consent to an anesthetic or other urgent medical treatment to be given if required. Please put your Emergency Contact number and any relevant medical information in the notes field.

According to the School Trustees' Charging Policy for school trips and visits, we invite you to make a contribution as shown above if you wish your child to take part in this trip. A student will not be excluded from this trip, if, due to financial hardship, the parents or carers are unable to contribute. If this is applicable, please contact the finance department via email at [financequeries@wealdgs.org](mailto:financequeries@wealdgs.org). Please note however, that the trip can only run if it receives adequate financial support from parents and carers.

If you have any further questions regarding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [ecoulbert@wealdgs.org](mailto:ecoulbert@wealdgs.org).

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Esme Coulbert**  
Teacher of English