



English Tradition  
Global Education

Cobham Hall

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Learning Support – Student Support Department  
*CReSTeD category DU*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Student Support Department, formerly the Susan Hampshire Centre, was founded in 1990 to support students with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia). Students with allied specific learning difficulties, such as dyspraxia or mild language developmental disorders, are also considered for the department. The Department contributes to the teaching of study skills throughout the school.

## **AIM**

- To produce independent and confident students who can take responsibility for their own learning.

This is achieved by:

- Encouraging students to develop their talents and strengths.
- Helping students to discover their preferred learning style.
- Developing strategies to compensate for specific weaknesses
- (e.g. poor short-term memory; poor organisational skills).
- Encouraging students to play a full part in both the academic and the extensive extra-curricular activities of the school.

## **RECOGNITION**

The Student Support Department is recognised by CReSTeD (*The Council for the Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Students*) as a Dyslexia Unit (DU) giving tutorial support, specialist teaching programmes, and providing an overall input into the curriculum.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Students need to be of at least good average ability as they are expected to attend all mainstream lessons, with the possible exception of Latin or one of the modern languages. A report by an appropriately qualified special needs teacher or educational psychologist is required prior to the pupil being interviewed by the Head of the Centre. All prospective students sit Cobham Hall entrance tests, although the results of dyslexic candidates are viewed in the light of the psychologist's findings. Students who are statemented by their local educational authority are also considered. For dyslexics whose first language is not English, lessons in the EFL Department may also be required.

## **ORGANISATION**

The Student Support Department is based in two classrooms in Main Hall. The Department is run by Mrs Diana Rabot.

Students are withdrawn from carefully selected classes in order that they may follow an *Individual Education Plan*. Students do not miss lessons where they would have to catch up. They can attend between one and two hours a week, depending on need. Lessons may be individual or in small groups. In some cases a student may be supported in mainstream lessons by a Teaching Assistant.

## **METHODS AND MATERIALS**

A multi-sensory approach is used throughout the teaching in the Department. Those requiring literacy support follow a structured course. Reading fluency and comprehension skills are developed through the SRA Reading Laboratory and vocabulary-controlled story books. Various thinking skills and reading and reasoning materials are used to facilitate cognitive development. All students are helped to develop their study skills. Mathematics support is designed to support mainstream lessons and so will use class texts supplemented by concrete aids as appropriate. Curriculum support for other subjects can be given and mainstream resources are supplemented by revision CDROMs and access to the Internet.

## **PROGRESS**

### **In the past, students have:**

- shown an increase in self-confidence.
- followed the full curriculum to both GCSE and A Level.
- in their examination results shown value has been added by comparison to their Cognitive Achievement Test (CAT) scores.
- taken roles in school plays, public speaking and musical events.
- captained school teams.
- gained scholarships to the Sixth Form.
- studied for degrees in the full range of subjects.