



2026

SELBORNE COLLEGE



**HEAD OF ENGLISH:
MR S GRANT**

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE



PALMA VIRTUTI



ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

MORE THAN A SUBJECT



Selborne is privileged to employ highly competent and experienced educators. Six senior English teachers have marked at provincial level, four have served as Senior Markers and two as Deputy Chief Markers. Two members of the department also set external matric examination papers for the province. This professional involvement ensures that the Selbornian is taught within a department that understands standards, assessment and academic rigour at the highest level.

English is central to the formation of the Selborne learner because it shapes how he thinks, how he understands others and how he expresses himself.

In a boys school context, English provides the Selbornian with a structured environment in which to explore ideas, values and perspectives with honesty and intellectual courage.

Through literature, the Selbornian encounters lives and dilemmas beyond his own experience. He learns to consider complexity, to develop empathy and to recognise that words carry weight. The study of English develops leadership through clarity of thought and expression. Whether speaking, writing or debating, the Selbornian is trained to construct logical arguments, listen respectfully and communicate with purpose.

The pursuit of excellence in English demands precision and depth. The Selborne learner is challenged to read critically, think independently and communicate with clarity. He learns to evaluate information carefully and to write with relevance and integrity, whether producing academic essays, creative writing or practical texts such as letters of application. English equips the Selbornian with lifelong competencies that prepare him for academic success and responsible participation in society.



THE SELBORNE APPROACH

The Selborne approach to English balances rigorous academic standards with the conviction that every Selbornian has a voice worth developing.

Lessons prioritise strong language foundations, close reading, structured discussion and purposeful writing.

Skills are built progressively from comprehension to sophisticated literary analysis, ensuring steady intellectual growth.



Structured essay scaffolding, detailed individual feedback and targeted literacy intervention guide the Selborne learner towards consistent improvement. Assessment practices are both formative and summative, designed to promote growth and accountability rather than simply measure performance. Clear criteria and regular feedback enable the Selbornian to take ownership of his academic progress.

Enrichment opportunities extend beyond the classroom. Selbornians participate in writing workshops and competitions through SACEE and other bodies, as well as Olympiads and inter school events. Public speaking and debating are encouraged through the debating society, allowing the Selborne learner to develop confidence and poise.

A strong focus remains on strengthening reading culture in the junior grades, with dedicated reading periods in Grade Eight and emphasis on comprehension, summary writing, visual literacy and core language skills in Grades Eight and Nine. In the senior grades, literature and poetry receive sustained attention, with careful development of the analytical techniques required for examination success. Enrichment opportunities for high achieving Selbornians continue to expand.





EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

The English department measures success through consistent academic performance and the development of confident Selbornians who communicate effectively.

Selborne maintains strong and stable matric pass rates, with growth in distinctions across grades and achievement aligned with national benchmarks. Selbornians participate actively in Olympiads, writing competitions and debating events, gaining recognition for their performance and commitment.

Graduates are consistently recognised at tertiary level for their communication skills, academic writing ability and confidence in expressing ideas. The Selborne learner leaves the English classroom equipped not only with examination success but with the ability to think clearly, argue responsibly and engage thoughtfully with the world.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

English flourishes at Selborne when it extends into lived experience and active engagement.

Inter school debating exchanges, joint workshops and collaborative writing initiatives allow the Selbornian to test his ideas beyond the classroom environment. Leadership opportunities exist through student editorial roles in school publications and through public speaking platforms.

Through these experiences, the Selbornian comes to understand that English is not merely a subject, but a means of shaping thought, character and contribution. It strengthens a vibrant academic culture in which Selborne learners and their families can take pride in both achievement and growth.





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THE SELBORNE MAN

At Selborne College, we are not merely preparing boys to pass examinations, win fixtures, or collect accolades. We are forming young men.

A Selborne man is:

- **Intellectually Disciplined**
He thinks carefully. He questions respectfully. He pursues understanding rather than surface familiarity. He is not afraid of rigour.
- **Morally Grounded**
He understands responsibility. He acts with integrity when no one is watching. He knows that character is revealed in pressure.
- **Courageous in Effort**
He does not withdraw from difficulty. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or on the stage, he learns to persist.
- **Articulate and Thoughtful**
He can express his ideas clearly. He listens as well as he speaks. He engages the world with curiosity rather than cynicism.
- **Committed to Brotherhood**
He understands that strength is built in community. He supports others. He leads by example.
- **Prepared for the Future**
He leaves Selborne adaptable, capable, and ready to contribute meaningfully to society. Every subject, every sport, every society exists to shape these qualities.

That is the Selborne standard.

