



# LET'S THINK *in English*

Let's Think in English is a teaching programme created since 2009 to help young people develop the reasoning skills needed for success in English. Let's Think in English draws on research by Piaget and Vygotsky that young people learn best when exploring ideas together. The lessons are based on structured challenge and include the development of understanding through discussion (social construction), problem-solving (cognitive challenge) and structured reflection (metacognition) which makes pupils more aware of their thinking processes and how they think most effectively.

Let's Think in English is based on 30 years' research at King's College London which shows that structured development of pupils' cognitive skills over two years raises their attainment by between 1 and 2 GCSE grades.

## **How Let's Think in English works:**

The Let's Think in English secondary programme consists of a suite of high-interest lessons which are intended to be used fortnightly in KS3. They are largely oral, based on reading, open-ended questioning and structured group discussion which increases students' reasoning skills and metacognition (structured reflection). This makes students more aware of their thinking processes and how they think most effectively.

Using high-quality English texts – fiction, poetry, non-fiction, drama and film – the lessons develop students' ability to provide reasoned justifications for their views. They develop students' skills of inference, deduction and analysis, increasing their confidence and resilience. Structured group discussion and feedback provides experience of rapidly formulating detailed responses to texts. This will be essential in the new GCSE examinations where students will need to draft and write analysis, evaluation and comparison answers on unseen texts in timed conditions.

## **What our pupils say:**

"I feel I can use my imagination and brain more in Let's Think."

"The lessons are thought-provoking and make me think out of the box. I feel my mind is clear by the end of a Let's Think lesson because I have processed things."

"Listening allows me to compare other people's opinions and see the world from a different point of view."

"There is nothing to know by the end, only ideas to work with."

"We are able to share ideas, improve on them and all use them."

"Each lesson there is active thinking and that engages you more."

"Lessons are more fun because we express ourselves more."

"I like the non-judgmental thinking and exploration of ideas as this helps me to have confidence in my own ideas."

"I loved every single LTiE lesson and I feel I have grown in confidence with my reading skills."

"LTiE made my brain think every time and the lessons are so exciting that it makes me feel really positive (even though I don't look like it most of the time)."

"I really enjoyed all the LTiE lessons."

"The lessons are great."

"Thank you for the lessons – they are fun and bizarre (in a good way). I feel I have developed myself in them."

"Let's Think in English is wonderful and I have really enjoyed it so far – I am excited to see if it is the same at Thomas Hardy's."

99% of the Year 8 pupils in the summer term of 2021 felt that Let's Think in English had helped them to develop the ability to read and think more independently.

99% of the Year 8 pupils in the summer term of 2021 wanted to keep Let's Think in English as part of their English curriculum.