Multilingualism at Tenby Tropicana Aman

Supporting Every Learner, Celebrating Every Language

At Tenby International School, Tropicana Aman (TTA), we are proud to be a truly multilingual community. Our students speak many different home languages and bring with them a wealth of cultural knowledge and perspective. Our aim is to ensure that every learner, whatever their starting point in English, can thrive academically and socially while maintaining pride in their linguistic identity.

What is Multilingualism?

Learning English is more than learning to chat with friends. Our programme is based on extensive academic research, with experts defining two stages of language development:

BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills)	CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency)
Every day social English	Academic and subject-specific English
Used in conversations, play and daily interactions	Used in lessons, textbooks, essays, and exams
Fluency typically develops in 1-3 years	Fluency typically develops in 5-7 years (or longer)
Helps students communicate confidently	Helps students achieve academic success

Many multilingual learners develop BICS quite quickly and may sound fluent in everyday situations. However, understanding complex texts, writing analytical essays, and mastering subject vocabulary requires CALP, which takes significantly longer to develop.

At TTA, the purpose of our EAL programme is to develop independent learners with a strong foundation in both BICS and CALP. We provide ongoing support to help students build the academic language skills needed to thrive across the curriculum and reach their full potential.

A Tiered Approach to Language Learning

Our multilingual and EAL provision is structured in three tiers that meet students exactly where they are on their learning journey. This ensures personalised support and steady progression into full participation in the mainstream curriculum.

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Tier 3 – Intensive English Programme

Tier 3 is for students who are new to English or have had limited exposure to it. They receive 13–15 hours of specialist English tuition each week while still joining certain mainstream subjects: Maths, PE, Art and Design, Computer Science, and Music.

- **Immersive learning:** Intensive English lessons build core language skills quickly through daily reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- **Active and visual:** Lessons use songs, images, storytelling, and role-play to develop vocabulary and confidence.
- **Curriculum links:** Based on Cambridge *Power Up* and *Own It!* with FlashAcademy for self-paced digital learning.
- **Progress goal:** Students usually move from Tier 3 to Tier 2 once they reach CEFR (Cambridge) A2, showing they can understand and use basic phrases and expressions in written and spoken English and interact with English speakers in day-to-day situations. This roughly aligns with Flash Academy Level B.
- **Social inclusion:** Being part of creative and physical subjects helps learners integrate and shine in other areas of school life.

Tier 2 – Targeted EAL Support

Tier 2 is for students who can communicate in everyday English but need help with academic language. They join small-group lessons for around six to seven hours a week alongside their main classes.

- **Focus areas:** Reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary.
- **Learning resources:** Cambridge *Power Up* and *Own It!* plus Flash Academy for personalised practice.
- **Typical lesson:** One hour of guided reading, vocabulary work, and short writing tasks linked to classroom topics.
- **Connection to school life:** Lessons connect to what students are learning in English, Science, and Humanities.
- **Progress goal:** Students usually move from Tier 2 to Tier 1 once they reach CEFR (Cambridge) B1, showing they can show a deeper understanding of the language and express themselves independently. This roughly aligns with Flash Academy Level C.
- **Outcome:** After roughly one academic year, students are usually ready to work fully in the mainstream classroom.

Tier 1 – Classroom Support

Your child is in Tier 1 when they can already understand and use English close to their age level. Teachers give extra classroom support to help them succeed.

- **Learning in class:** Students learn in the mainstream classroom with their peers.
- **Extra support:** Teachers use visuals, sentence starters, and guided activities to make lessons clear.
- **Building confidence:** Students practice speaking in pairs, writing with support, and sharing ideas aloud.
- **Using home language:** Bilingual glossaries and peer translation are encouraged to build understanding.
- **Celebrating growth:** Progress is recognised in both English and subject learning.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment is at the heart of our multilingual provision. Each term, every student completes a series of assessments that help us track progress, personalise teaching, and report meaningfully to families.

Assessment Tool	Purpose	Frequency	Outcome for Parents
Cambridge English Test	Provides a global English proficiency benchmark aligned to CEFR levels.	Once per term	CEFR level (A1–C2) shown in the termly report.
Flash Academy Assessment Suite	Measures vocabulary, grammar, and comprehension through digital tasks.	Once per term	Snapshot of accuracy, fluency, and next-step targets.

Teachers use these data points to triangulate results and create a complete picture of each learner's development.

Termly reports summarise progress, strengths, and next targets. Parents are also invited to discuss their child's progress during Academic Review Days or by meeting the EAL team at any point in the term.

Progression Through the Tiers

Most students remain in their current tier for about one academic year. The programme is designed to accelerate learning so that students can transition smoothly into full mainstream access rather than move sequentially through every tier.

For example, a student who joins at **Tier 2** with some English proficiency typically stays for a year before moving into **Tier 1**, the mainstream classroom with targeted support. A student beginning in **Tier 3** may progress directly to Tier 1 once they have developed sufficient fluency and confidence due to the intensive nature of the course.

Progression to Tier 1 corresponds to **CEFR** (Cambridge) **Level B1** which roughly aligns with **Flash Academy Level C**. At this stage, learners can understand main ideas, join classroom discussions, and produce structured written work with limited support.

Each decision is based on assessment data, teacher feedback, and classroom performance. When students are ready to exit EAL support, the EAL and subject teachers meet to plan a smooth transition and continue monitoring progress.

Fees and Provision

Our Tier 2 and Tier 3 programmes are specialised pathways led by qualified EAL teachers and delivered in small groups. These programmes require additional staffing, resources, and lesson time, and therefore incur a **supplementary fee** on top of standard tuition.

Tier 1 support, embedded within mainstream teaching, is part of the school's core provision at no extra cost.

We are committed to ensuring all EAL support is high-quality, structured, and directly linked to measurable learning outcomes.

Our Teaching Philosophy

We see multilingualism as a strength. A learner's home language supports rather than hinders their acquisition of English. Our classrooms are interactive, inclusive, and language-rich environments where students collaborate, question, and reflect.

Strategies such as visual scaffolding, guided dialogue, and translanguaging help students connect their home languages with English. EAL teachers and subject specialists work closely to ensure that academic expectations remain high while providing the right amount of support.

The goal is always independence — confident learners who can express themselves fluently, think critically, and succeed across all subjects.

Partnership and Celebration

Parents and carers are valued partners in every learner's journey. We will have regular **EAL Celebration** opportunities to showcase how our multilingual learners are growing in confidence and skill. Families will have the opportunity to learn about our assessment process, explore how progress is reported, and discover practical ways to support English learning at home while maintaining pride in the home language.

We also offer practical conversational English classes to all parents every Monday during the school term. All parents are welcome to attend.

At Tenby Tropicana Aman, we take pride in celebrating our vibrant, diverse community and the remarkable achievements of our multilingual learners.

We hope this overview reassures you of our commitment to your child's learning and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead this year.

Warm regards,



Chris Parkes-Bristow
Head of Multilingualism and EAL

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