

## Statement of Intent

Students of English study a myriad of dynamic and diverse literary texts as they are led through the English department's *Curriculum Journey*. The comprehensive range of texts studied on this journey span the centuries that have shaped our literary history and empower our students to develop an empathetic understanding of identity, culture, heritage and the role writing plays in the expression of the human experience. We are fervent for educating the next generation to understand the power of language, communication, relationships and opportunity. Ultimately, our purpose is to inspire a love of literature, storytelling and learning through rich and thought provoking texts.

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The KS3 *Curriculum Journey* has been carefully designed to create a secure foundation of knowledge focused on the power of the written and spoken word.

To maximise progress and attainment in KS4, the KS3 curriculum mirrors the complexity of skills, literary sources and non-fiction texts within the GCSE Literature and GCSE Language courses. The schemes have been curated to educate our students on the diverse representations of race, gender and class within literary texts. A variety of perspectives and authors are studied to develop students' empathetic understanding of identity, culture and the multifaceted human experience relevant to their maturity.

In order to prepare students for KS4, we focus on themes such as power, relationships, identity and justice. To ensure an expert understanding of these concepts, each lesson is founded on a *Big Question*, which drives students to think thematically and critically about texts.

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The Key Stage 4 English GCSE curriculum prepares students for higher education and the world of work. It also exercises and develops critical and lateral thinking skills, leading our students to become masters of both written and verbal communication.

Students follow two GCSE courses: AQA English Language and AQA English Literature.

All students study both the GCSE Language and GCSE Literature courses.

For GCSE English Language and Literature, students are given the opportunity to explore a range of texts from historical, social and diverse cultural contexts. The course is designed to inspire and motivate students to think deeply about the way in which texts are crafted to reflect the writers' ideas and attitudes. Students study a range of text types, fiction and non-fiction - analysing authorial methods and choices. Students will also produce their own creative pieces, emulating the skills they have observed by consciously shaping their writing to form and purpose.

As part of the English Language GCSE, Year 10 students complete their Spoken Language GCSE qualification. A 'Pass', 'Merit' or 'Distinction' for the delivery of a persuasive speech to their peers on a contemporary issue of their choice is awarded and graded at this time.

All English written exams are taken at the end of Year 11 and final grades are based on exam performance.

English lessons occur four times each week. Homework is set each week by teachers. Both Year 10 & Year 11 are expected to complete two pieces each week which will either be a revision or retrieval based task on Educake and/or a written piece that must be handed to their class teacher.

## Key Stage 5 Curriculum

The study of English Literature at KS5 is diverse. Following the Edexcel (Pearson) course, A level Literature offers students a plethora of literary works ranging from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. These include: an anthology of modern poetry, William Shakespeare's 'Othello', Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' alongside Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale', Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and a selection of poems from Christina Rossetti.

Over the course of two years, students are assessed by three written exam papers (worth 80% of the final mark) and coursework (worth 20% of the final mark). The coursework is written in the second year. There are five lessons across each week which is split between two subject specialists. Five hours of homework, including the reading of relevant texts, is set each week.

## Extended Learning

### What we offer to extend the learning of our students

Further opportunities within English include report writing for the *BBC School Report*, The *Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge* and entries into national and regional reading and creative writing competitions. Theatre visits and visiting theatre companies also develop and consolidate the knowledge and understanding of key texts. Master classes for students studying at GCSE level are offered to students throughout the week. Further to this, students with a passion and flare for English are invited to 'Cloud 9' where studied texts are explored in a greater depth through wider philosophical and critical theories.

### What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject

Parents/carers can support in a number of different ways. In particular, the following will support your child in their learning:

- Reading at home daily (30 minutes)
- Researching the context of the studied texts and their writers
- Ensuring homework is completed
- Practising spelling and revising grammatical terminology