

Statement of Intent

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. Through the study of high quality literature from distinguished writers and prominent literary texts, students are equipped to communicate their ideas and emotions so they develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

During Year 7 and 8 students study a range of authors from pre-1914 literature as well as contemporary prose, drama and poetry. Students learn key skills crucial to ensuring GCSE success, such as being able to make inferences based upon evidence in a text and developing critical comparisons across texts. They produce a variety of written work, including descriptive, persuasive, analytical and comparative.

Upper school starts for our students at the beginning of year 9 where the curriculum mirrors the complexity of study at GCSE. This allows the students to maximise their grades when taking final exams in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. Students tackle a range of writing forms, using non-fiction and literary sources as stimuli. They also study literature through time where works from prominent writers and influential texts are studied for their representations of gender, race and class through history.

English lessons occur four times each week with one lesson each fortnight dedicated to reading. Homework is set each week by teachers. Year 7 & 8 complete 30 – 45 minutes per week, whilst Yr9 complete 45 - 60 minutes.

All Key Stage 3 schemes of work are specifically planned to prepare students for GCSE study. Assessments are in the style of GCSE questions so that students garner the necessary skills for success from the start of Yr7.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The Key Stage 4 GCSE curriculum prepares students for higher education and the world of work through learning about written and spoken communication.

English also exercises and develops critical and lateral thinking skills, leading to students becoming good problem solvers. Students follow two GCSE courses: AQA English Language and AQA English Literature.

Through the study of Language students learn to retrieve and interpret data or facts, in increasingly complex material. They learn to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. In addition, students learn how to organise information and ideas, use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Through the study of Literature students learn to explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects, using relevant subject terminology to support their views. They must also show awareness of social, historical and cultural influences in analysis.

At the end of Year 10, students complete their Spoken Language GCSE qualification. They are awarded either

a 'Pass', 'Merit' or 'Distinction' for the delivery of a persuasive speech to their peers on a contemporary issue of their choice. English GCSE exams are taken at the end of Year 11. Final grades are based on exam performance. All students study for GCSE Language and GCSE Literature.

English lessons occur four times each week with one lesson each fortnight dedicated to reading. Homework is set each week by teachers. Both Year 10 & Year 11 are expected to complete two pieces each week.

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 covering the period from 1300 to the present day. These include an anthology of modern poetry; Shakespeare's Othello; 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 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 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
- Researching the context of the studied texts and their writers
- Ensuring homework is completed
- Practising spelling and revising grammatical terminology with your son/daughter