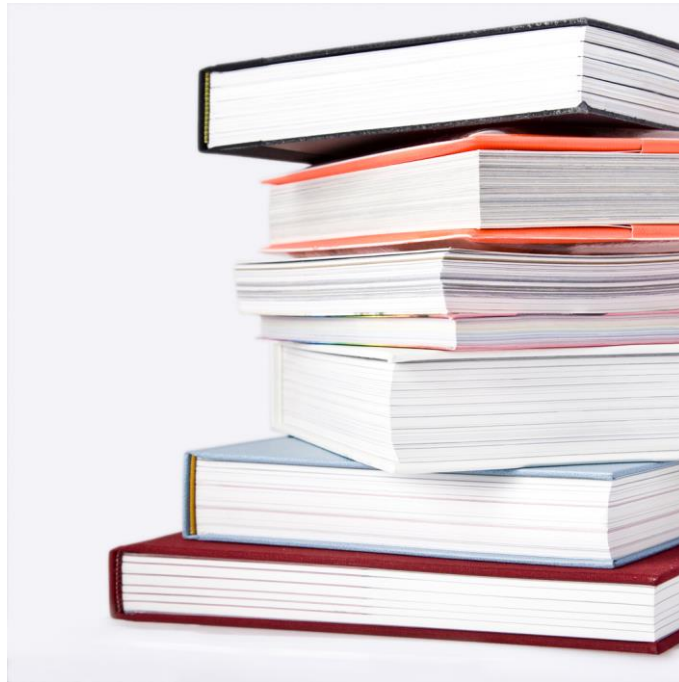


COMMUNICATIONS : ENGLISH



Team Leader [Communications]: Miss J Bennett
Programme Leaders : Mr C Ewing and Ms L Jacobson

Aims:

- to enable students to feel comfortable with language so that they can express themselves effectively
- to provide students of all abilities with all the language skills necessary to succeed in other subject areas and eventually, in adult life
- to foster a real enjoyment of literature
- to place equal importance on the core skills of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing
- to teach reading and writing as processes – reading for meaning, analysis, awareness of author’s craft; for writing, planning, drafting, editing and publishing work
- to teach writing as a process - planning, drafting, editing and publishing work.

Staffing:

- There are 8 members of the English Faculty, including one specialist teaching assistant
- Each member of staff is well qualified to teach the subject
- It is the policy of the Faculty to enable teachers to develop experience of teaching across the full spectrum of age and ability.

Accommodation:

- English lessons take place in a suite of specialist teaching rooms.

Resources:

- The Faculty has its own office, storage facilities and ICT suite
- It is very well resourced with a wide variety of books
- The Faculty enjoys regular use of ICT in all years
- It is well-equipped with multi-media equipment and is very conveniently placed close to the Resource Centre.

Coursework/Homework:

- In Years 7, 8 and 9 homework is set on a regular weekly cycle using Extended Learning Projects (ELPs). These are projects that are based on the topic which students are studying and are designed to stretch and challenge students whilst also consolidating the learning which has been done in class. In Years 7, 8 and 9, students will also be set reading homework as part of the Accelerated reader lesson.
- In Years 10, 11 and beyond, students undertake longer units of work, so homework is set appropriately.
- In Years 7, 8 and 9 students have exercise books. They are used for notes, first and final drafts. In Years 10 and 11 students use exercise books to take notes and practice skills required for controlled assessments and examinations.

Special Educational Needs:

- There is additional support in all years where students can be helped by being withdrawn from lesson time for a limited period to work on a specific need, or given in class support by our specialist teaching assistant.
- In all years, smaller group sizes for students with Special Needs allow staff to provide more help. Students are also encouraged to follow a programme of learning at home.

KEY STAGE 3: YEARS 7 – 9**Course:**

The National Curriculum in English addresses the following areas of study:

- Pre twentieth century poetry and prose
- Shared reading of novels
- Independent reading
- Plays
- Information Technology Research work
- Poetry
- Non-Fiction Writing and reading.

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are automatically enrolled on the Accelerated Reader program. They have a one-hour Accelerated Reader lesson every two weeks in the Learning Resource Centre.

Assessment:

- A continuous model of assessment and monitoring takes place in Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing
- Evidence of students’ work is levelled according to NC criteria
- Students are assessed using ‘Assessing Pupil Progress’, a programme of assessment of the individual skills required.

Student Groupings:

- Students are set, where appropriate. Year 7, however, is usually taught in mixed ability classes.

KEY STAGE 4: YEARS 10 AND 11

Years 10 and 11

All students sit GCSE English Language during years 10 and 11 as well as English Literature which allows them to achieve two GCSE qualifications in this subject area.

The course studied will be examination only, no coursework is applicable

In light of the changes to the KS4 English curriculum, we deliver a GCSE English and English Literature course which offers regular examination practice, both in formal examinations conditions and under timed conditions in the classroom. Students receive regular feedback and are given the opportunity to improve their work.

English Language summary of modules:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A – Reading Section B - Writing 80 marks 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of final grade

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A – Reading Section B – Writing 80 marks 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of final grade

English Literature summary of modules:

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A – Shakespeare; Section B – 19th century novel

60% of final grade

Paper 2 2 hours 15 minutes

Section A – Modern Texts; Section B – Poetry; Section C – Unseen Poetry

40% of final grade

Where could GCSE English lead?

GCSE English provides a foundation of literacy and oracy which enables students to operate effectively in the real world. GCSE English at Grade C or above is also a necessary requirement for most courses in Year 12. GCSE English enables students to study A levels or the IB qualification in Years 12 and 13, which may also lead to further study at University level.

Students are taught in classes designed to address the skills required to achieve their most optimistic grade predictions and intervention and support is an on-going process throughout the GCSE course.

Student Groupings:

- Students are set.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

- Theatre visits are offered for students of all ages on a regular basis
- The Faculty believes strongly in celebrating the achievement of all our pupils by displaying their work regularly and getting writing published, often on our VLE
- English plays an important role in the delivery of Information Technology within KS3 and KS4
- There are opportunities for students to take part in Live Drama performances
- Students take part in national events such as National Poetry Day and Roald Dahl day
- Students have the opportunity to work with visiting poets and authors wherever possible.