

Welcome to the English Department

Subject Leader	:	Mrs N Nowell
Teachers	:	Mrs N Birkbeck, Ms C Godfrey, Mr J Hindley, Mr J Hillman, Mr A Lindsay, Miss C McGee, Ms N Nunweiler, Miss R Sackman, Mrs A Sivyver, Mr P Taylor, Ms E Weaver

Subject Overview

Key Stage 3: Years 7 and 8

Our Key Stage Three Curriculum is far more than merely a preparation for GCSE exams. It is a stand-alone, bespoke curriculum designed to engage, stimulate and inspire our students as well as develop the crucial skills needed in the modern world. In Years 7 and 8, students are introduced to a range of fiction, drama, non-fiction and media texts which they explore in ways which are both engaging and challenging. We link texts and make connections between the concepts that underpin the study of language and literature; our students gain a sense of historical development and study texts in depth.

Students are taught reading, writing and spoken language skills throughout Key Stage 3. These skills link closely with the skills required for GCSE and the curriculum is designed to prepare students effectively for the next level. In reading assessments, students are assessed on skills of comprehension, inference, interpretation, analysis and evaluation. They will also learn to write effectively for a range of purposes, including description, narration, review, persuasion and constructing an argument.

Our students complete two short knowledge assessments and one longer written assessment in each long term. We build up a detailed picture of their strengths and also their areas of weakness across the entire suite of skills. This helps us to intervene and support students where and when they need it, and it also enables us to inform the parents/carers, exactly how students are doing.

Key Stage 4: Years 9, 10 and 11

Throughout Years 9, 10 and 11, students are taught both English Language and English Literature in preparation for two GCSE qualifications of equal status.

Our students are encouraged to read critically and use the knowledge they gain from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing. Students develop their awareness of how writing is crafted for different purposes, audiences and forms. This supports them as critical readers and helps them to make conscious choices when planning their own writing. There are two exams: one focusing on non-fiction texts and writing tasks, the second focusing on literary texts and creative writing tasks. Both exams put equal emphasis on reading and writing skills. There is a focus on authentic and engaging unseen texts from the 19th to 21st centuries, to provide students with an enriched curriculum. We recognise that the development of speaking and listening skills is fundamental and it remains an integrated and integral part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

Students are taught a range of texts for GCSE English Literature, including Shakespeare, a 19th-century novel and a range of poetry, in preparation for two exams at the end of Year 11. They learn how to closely analyse passages of text and make links with the whole text. They also develop skills of comparison when studying poetry, including how to compare unseen

texts. Students study the set texts within their social and historical context and learn how this context affects audience interpretations.

Sixth Form

Our challenging A Level courses build on the skills and knowledge that students have acquired in their previous studies. Each of these subjects not only provides students with an advanced understanding of English but they also prepare students for degree level study as students are encouraged to become independent learners.

A Level English Language and Literature, AQA, 7707

The A-level Language and Literature course offers students a unique opportunity to study how the systems and concepts that underpin our language and govern its use contribute to the generation of meaning. Every text that we study, ranging from advertisements on YouTube to one of Shakespeare's plays, is seen as a 'discourse event' involving the interaction of writers/speakers and readers/listeners in a very specific context. Students respond to these texts in a range of different ways, from traditional essays to recreative writing, where the ability to critically analyse is demonstrated through original writing. The skills that students will learn on this course enable them to become critical readers of all forms of language-in-use which is both excellent preparation for a variety of different twenty-first century jobs and a rewarding pursuit in its own right.

A Level English Literature, AQA, 7712

English is a fundamental part of all our lives and the ability to analyse and respond to a wide variety of material is both challenging and exhilarating as well as useful no matter what future pathway students choose. English Literature is highly regarded as an academic subject providing a rigorous preparation for study at degree level. The variety of assessment styles used, such as passage-based questions, unseen material, single-text questions, multiple-text questions, open- and closed-book approaches allows students to develop a wide range of skills, such as the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research which are valuable for both further study and future employment.

Teaching Aims and Objectives

The English department aims to ensure all students make excellent learning progress, are exposed to a range of memorable experiences and are given opportunity to develop into independent, creative and analytical thinkers. We offer:

- An original curriculum:

Delivery of a curriculum that meets the needs of our students and engages them thoroughly in their learning.

- Accessible learning:

Effective differentiation to allow all students to undertake the same curriculum with a variety of approaches used to ensure they achieve their full potential.

- Real life contexts:

Enabling students to see the relevance of English in their own lives and providing exciting and memorable enrichment experiences.

- Reading for pleasure:

Our curriculum and extra-curricular initiatives give reading a high profile and encourage students and staff alike to read widely.

- Talk as a tool for learning:

Planned opportunities for developing speaking and listening skills are delivered through every Key Stage.

	Our assessment objectives for English are:
AO1	Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas. Select and synthesise evidence from different texts.
AO2	Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.
AO3	Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.
AO4	Evaluate texts critically and support this with the appropriate textual references.
AO5	Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.
AO6	Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.
AO7	Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting.
AO8	Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations.
AO9	Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

Course Information

Key Stage 3

Year 7 : Origins of Stories, War of Words and Investigating Identity.

- Year 8 : Men and Women: *Twelfth Night* and supporting texts.
 Crime and Punishment: *Oliver Twist* and supporting texts.
 Magic and Mayhem: *The Crucible* and supporting texts.
- Year 9 : Power and Conflict: *Macbeth* and supporting texts.
 Around the World: *Of Mice and Men* and supporting texts.
 On the Stage: *Blood Brothers* and supporting texts.
- Year 10: *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet*, a cluster of 'Love and Relationships' poetry.
An Inspector Calls and preparation for English Language.
- Year 11: Revision for English Language and English Literature GCSE exams.

Sixth Form

- Year 12: Language and Literature:
Remembered Places – Paris, an anthology of non-fiction texts.
 Imagined Worlds, Margaret Atwood's '*The Handmaid's Tale*'.
 Poetic voices, Carol Ann Duffy, an anthology of Poetry.
 Khaled Hossenini's '*The Kite Runner*'.
- Literature: Shakespeare's *Othello*, a wide range of poetry, *The Great Gatsby*.
- Year 13: Language and Literature:
Remembered Places – Paris, an anthology of non-fiction texts.
 Imagined Worlds, Margaret Atwood's '*The Handmaid's Tale*'.
 Poetic voices, Carol Ann Duffy, an anthology of Poetry.
 Khaled Hossenini's '*The Kite Runner*'.
 Catherine Reilly, *Scars Upon my Heart*.
- Literature: World War I Literature and a range of prose.
 Pat Barker *Regeneration*
 David Haig *My Boy Jack*.

Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)

Students are expected to be reading for pleasure on a regular basis to ensure they give themselves the best opportunities in all subjects. We encourage KS3 students to become 'reading millionaires'- reading 1 million words over the course of the academic year. Teachers set homework weekly to help students progress. Homework can be project based or smaller tasks depending on what is being studied in the term.

Useful websites to visit for past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports are as follows:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/>

Another website that helps students is www.bbc.co.uk/education where they are able to choose the right key stage for the skills/topics they wish to revise.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Trips are run to the theatre. We have a regular book club and a creative writing club. Revision sessions for Year 11 are held prior to examinations. We take part in the BBC Young Journalism competition every year.

Marking and Assessment

The English team follows the whole school policy and therefore work is marked every three weeks. Students can expect to see purposeful feedback with targets for improvement and in return they are expected to respond to this marking and start working on their targets straight away.

At the beginning of every lesson students take part in a low stakes quiz assessing prior learning; students mark these quizzes for themselves.

Students are formally assessed through knowledge assessments and via longer exam style responses. This assessment informs teachers about what needs to be focused on in order for the individual to progress further. Students complete knowledge indicators and more formal written assessments demonstrating their writing skills and inference skills.

An end of year exam takes place which is a chance for students to showcase what they have learned throughout the year. Pre-public exams (PPEs) are sat by year 10 and 11 students.

Sixth Form

The English team follows the whole school policy and therefore marks work every three weeks. Students can expect to see purposeful feedback with targets for improvement and in return they are expected to respond to this marking and start working on their targets straight away.

Students are formally assessed regularly. This assessment informs teachers about what needs to be focused on in order for the individual to progress further.

PPEs will take place through the year and students will complete a large number of past papers in the run up to examinations.

Examinations

GCSE

AQA English Language [8700](#)

AQA English Literature [8702](#)

AQA English Language [8700](#) for GCSE resit for 2020-21

A Level

AQA A level English Language and Literature [7707](#)

AQA A level English Literature [7712](#)