

English at Key Stage Three and Four



Curriculum Intent and Aims.

The English department focuses on reading, writing and speaking and listening. All year groups cover a wide range of skills to ensure that they gain the best possible GCSE grades as well as developing cultural knowledge of the wider world. Our department is passionate about developing an exciting and innovative curriculum which inspires our pupils and gives them confidence in communicating. The importance of our subject is emphasised through a committed and dedicated team who have successfully created a curriculum our students enjoy and strive to achieve their potential.

Curriculum Details.

In Year Seven, we cover a wide range of topics which may include:

- a study of genre
- the play 'Burning Everest'
- advertising
- the novel 'Tuck Everlasting'.

In Year Eight, our curriculum includes:

- the novel 'Holes'
- film and media
- the play 'Frankenstein' and gothic horror
- Greek mythology

Our Year Nine scheme of work involves topic such as:

- first world war poetry
- the novel 'The Hunger Games'
- a speaking and listening presentation
- the play 'Macbeth'

Key Stage Four focuses on the study of GCSEs in English language and English Literature. We follow the EDUQAS syllabus which currently consists of:

English language, which focuses on two exam papers. Paper One will test the reading of twentieth century fiction and provide an opportunity for creative writing. Paper Two will include reading nineteenth and twentieth century texts and transactional writing.

English literature also includes two exams. Paper One includes questions based on 'Romeo and Juliet' and poetry from 1789 to present day. Paper Two tests the study of 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls' and unseen poetry.

From September 2015, the syllabus has changed at Key Stage Four. No controlled assessments are used, only exams. As a result of this, we encourage students to purchase their own copies of the three key literature texts.

Termly Themes.

In addition to the work covered in lessons, we also encourage students to explore independently topics of interest in a style and format of their choice. These focus on a variety of themes include The Romantic poets, genres and studies focussing on specific authors such as Charles Dickens and Shakespeare. Significant political eras are also included in order to develop the importance texts have in society, as well as encouraging students to explore their own interests and create their own personal 'voice'.

Extra-Curricular and Career Opportunities.

We have had workshops and visits from renowned teenage authors such as Justin Somper and performances of key texts such as 'An Inspector Calls.' Theatre visits are always popular and we encourage students to attend whenever possible.