

The English Faculty

The English Faculty consists of 7 full time and 5 part time teachers who aim to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect in which every pupil feels valued. All students in English have equal access to the curriculum. The aim of the curriculum is to enable students to become critical readers and competent writers, to judge fact from opinion, to empower students with a critical understanding of spoken and written language and its power to influence and persuade. Students are encouraged to talk and write about subjects which matter to them and to draw on experiences from their whole environment. The Faculty aims to foster an enjoyment of literature and language, whilst developing students' social awareness and personal confidence.

Key Stage 3

English is taught in mixed ability groups for three 1 hour periods per week for Year 7 & 8, and groups set by ability for four 1 hour periods for Year 9. In Year 9, the fourth lesson is used to target reading and grammar skills explicitly. At KS3, the curriculum is organised in half-termly units of work.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 we offer a varied and challenging curriculum to meet the needs of all learners. Teaching groups are banded on ability and the Faculty currently follows the AQA GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature courses.

The vast majority of students are entered for both GCSEs with the exception of a small nurture group who are entered for English language only – the size of this group varies depending on the needs of the learners each year. Strong and supportive links with the SENCO, the drama department and the school librarian are highly valued. Despite this year's challenges with Covid-19, recent extra-curricular activities have included: Young Writer's competition, after which several of the students had work published; World Book Day activities and competitions; live-streamed theatre from the National Theatre at Home; a build up to launching the Carnegie reading group which tracks the Carnegie and the Brilliant Book Award each year.

We are very proud of our history of achievement and success in English and especially in the very high standards attained in recent years. This success can be measured by our outstanding GCSE results: 82% achieving a standard pass of 4 or above in English Language and 89% achieving a standard pass of 4 or above in English Literature in 2019; 90% achieved a standard pass of 4 or above, 76% a 5 or above in English Language and 93% achieving a standard pass of 4 or above, 83% a 5 or above in English Literature in 2020.

These achievements are attributed to many factors but above all else to the dynamic, thorough, high quality teaching and learning which remains our highest priority in all that we do.

High Achievement with Care & Discipline for All