

The department currently consists of four full-time teachers in addition to the Head of Department. The Head of Department is responsible for Key Stage 5 and we have Key Stage 3 and 4 co-ordinators. The Deputy Headteacher also teaches GCSE English.

We are a supportive and enthusiastic department, proud both of our results and of our good relationships with our pupils. United in our enthusiasm for our subject and desire to pass on our love of language and literature to our pupils, we regularly share ideas and resources. To encourage students' interest and support their learning we arrange visits and trips to the theatre whenever possible. There is a student-led Creative Writing Club that has run for a number of years as well as a KS3 Book Club. Each year an English teacher prepares individuals for the English Speak Out Challenge competition, the Regional Final of which has been won by a student from the school on several occasions. We also lead a KS3 Spelling Bee and house competitions during the school year, as well as a KS3 sponsored read for our charity week charities.

In KS3, English is taught in form groups of thirty-one pupils who have three one hour lessons a week. Year 7 and 8 classes also have a fortnightly drama lesson with the Drama Department and we are currently developing literacy/grammar lessons to help embed the SPaG skills now being taught in KS2. We regularly review our schemes of work to encourage innovative practice at an accelerated level, with all our pupils completing KS3 at the end of Year 8. While all teachers work to the same year outlines and common assessments are set across the year groups, individual unit plans leave scope for teachers to select in accordance with their own particular strengths and areas of interest. With access to data projectors and interactive whiteboards in all our classrooms, we continue to develop a wide range of shared teaching resources, produced by members of the department.

With pupils having completed KS3 at the end of Year 8, we continue to build on the skills learnt at KS3 with a focus on the 2015 GCSE specifications for both English Language and Literature. Units include a detailed Shakespeare study and studies of modern drama, prose and poetry to develop skills required for GCSE English Literature, together with the study of fiction and non-fiction texts and personal writing in readiness for GCSE English Language. In Years 10 and 11 the five forms become six teaching groups. In September 2015 we embarked on the new AQA syllabus in both English Language and English Literature and continue to update our schemes of work, to reflect the expectations of these specifications. All pupils sit examinations in both subjects at the end of Year 11.

Our excellent results at GCSE have resulted in a substantial uptake of the subject at A Level. Our groups are now enjoying following the OCR English Literature specification in both Years 12 and 13, our chosen focus being the dystopian genre. The English Language and Literature course is now very well established and we currently have two groups in Years 12 and 13. Since September 2015 we have followed the AQA specification for this A Level. Our current Year 12s are being taught both courses as a linear subject. Each year we have a group of students attending a lunchtime workshop in preparation for Oxbridge applications and several of our former students have gone on to study English at undergraduate level.

Accommodation is superb in the West Wing where we have a suite of well-equipped, spacious and well - designed classrooms and we have access to IT rooms through a central booking system.

Varied teaching strategies are actively encouraged for all year groups. Group work is a regular part of lessons at all levels and contributes substantially to our encouragement of individual thought and pupils' acceptance of responsibility for their own learning. The department encourages the use and development of multi-modal approaches to learning and encourages the use of news stories and parallels between set texts and modern life to develop empathy and understanding. Pupils use IT where possible as part of a number of units. We have integrated Assessment for Learning at all levels and require pupils to review and redraft their own work with a focus on assessment criteria.

We are looking for a lively, enthusiastic and committed teacher who enjoys working as part of a team and relishes the challenge posed by able pupils. The ability to offer a contribution to the continuing development of resources and teaching strategies at Key Stage 3 and 4 or in either A Level would be particularly welcome.