



# English

## Aims

- To inspire students to enjoy and appreciate literature and the written word in all its forms.
- To promote an understanding of oneself and others through the discussion and study of literature.
- To encourage students to write creatively.
- To foster students' ability to write clearly in a range of forms.
- To explore the workings of the English language and its etymology.
- To provide opportunities for students to develop confident speaking and listening skills.

## Objectives

- To enable students to discuss the implicit meanings of literature and its relevance to social, historical and cultural issues.
- To extend students' written skills to meet the demands of writing for different purposes and for different audiences.
- To understand the ways in which language, form and structure express meaning.
- To teach grammar and spelling and to encourage the use of Standard English where appropriate.
- To allow students to improve their oral and listening skills by narrating, discussing, arguing and persuading in a range of activities.

## Organisation

The department consists of five teachers. It has a very well-resourced stock of literary texts: novels, short stories, drama and poetry are all well represented. The study of language - its grammatical structures and its literary and rhetorical techniques - is well covered in textbooks and resources created by the department. The influence of the media is studied explicitly through the analysis of newspapers, magazines, advertising, film and television. The department possesses three specialist classrooms which display students' work.

## Who studies what and when?

### Years 7-9

Lessons are carefully planned to provide varied, stimulating and challenging activities, all of which are in line with the National Curriculum's attainment targets for speaking, listening, and reading and writing. Regular library visits enhance the students' experience of English.

### Years 10-11

English GCSE and English Literature GCSE are two separate examinations but are taught as an integrated course. At this level students utilise mature analytical skills to respond with insight and originality to a variety of texts, ranging from Shakespeare to contemporary newspaper features. Students are encouraged to communicate ideas creatively, clearly and cogently through both oral and written responses. Theatre trips are arranged to extend students' literary studies.

### LVI and UVI

Students follow the English Literature AS/A Level course. Through class discussions, group explorations and individual coursework tutorials, students develop independent, critical opinions about literary texts. An understanding of different styles of writing and an awareness of contextual issues are developed. The AS/A Level introduces a greater emphasis on different textual interpretations. Personal response, individual research and wider reading are strongly encouraged.

## Extra-curricular activities

The English Department is responsible for public-speaking competitions in the school. All years are involved and pupils compete both internally and in external Public Speaking Leagues.

## Public examinations

GCSE: ENGLISH AQA

GCSE: ENGLISH LITERATURE AQA

AS/A LEVEL: ENGLISH LITERATURE OCR

## Departmental principles

English is a living, enriching discipline. Its literature exposes students to different ways of looking at the world, as well as providing an insight into other traditions and cultures. Through discussion of ideas and issues arising through literary study, students gain a greater understanding of their own feelings and opinions, which equips them with a more informed sense of the world.

The exploration of all forms of the written word contributes to the development of analytical skills, the relevance of which permeates all aspects of life.

An understanding of the power of communication is fundamental to the teaching and learning of English. By appreciating how written and oral communication function, students are able to develop further their own communicative skills, which are critical to success in the world around them.