

The English Faculty

Our Faculty Vision

Our over-arching aim is to be consistently working towards excellence in creativity, competence, cultural and critical understanding.

"I am really enjoying English because the teacher has lots of different ways of teaching us (like group work)."

Year 9 pupil



We seek to motivate our students through positive relationships, a wide range of teaching and learning styles, and the promotion of independence.

We aim to be a faculty of active readers, writers, speakers and listeners, whose enthusiasm for English Language and Literature is found in our continuing active involvement with the subject.

As a faculty we value teamwork through shared planning, shared observation, shared professional dialogue and shared support. Our aim is to develop our working practices through reflection and evaluation.

The Faculty promotes active learning. Wherever possible, we teach language through literature and a range of media. We arrange – and change – groups within classes to suit both the learning styles of pupils and the demands of the particular work in hand. We are reflective and responsive to the needs of individual pupils, and use a range of assessment techniques to inform progress in speaking and listening, reading and writing. In the midst of curriculum changes our planning is guided by our vision of English as a means of emotional and cultural development as well as a tool of expression. Many of our resources come from NATE and the English & Media Centre.

Faculty team and accommodation

The Faculty teaching team consists of the Head of Faculty, two Team Leaders and a Faculty Coach. Team Leaders take charge of pupil progress in each Key Stage, while the Faculty Coach's role is to lead Faculty cpd and to support teachers in such a way that pupils enjoy a consistently outstanding experience in their English lessons and make exceptional progress. There are at present eleven members of the Faculty. We benefit from having 12 hours of administrative support each week.

English has a suite of rooms in an attractive building. All rooms are wireless-networked and equipped with an interactive whiteboard. An English Computer Resource base accommodates up to 20 students. The adjacent Conference Room can be booked for Drama, speaking and listening activities, and larger group work.

Curriculum

Key Stage 3

The school has 8-form entry and we have 10 English teaching groups in each year. A high proportion of pupils enter Year 7 with level 5. The additional classes are small support groups to ensure all pupils make rapid progress in their learning. Class sizes in eight of the groups are typically 25 and in the smaller groups 8-10. Pupils have seven one-hour lessons per fortnight in Year 7, and six in Years 8 & 9.



"English is good because teachers are always doing funny accents, and I feel that they want me to do really well."

Year 7 pupil

The Key Stage 3 Team Leader co-ordinates the learning at Key Stage 3. The curriculum is organised on a modular basis in Years 7 and 8 with one module taught each half-term. Modules are organised to ensure key objectives are met and to promote pacy progression. Common resources are shared through FROG, the online learning platform. Our curriculum was reviewed in 2013-2014 in light of National Curriculum changes.

Key Stage 4



At Key Stage 4 there are nine English teaching groups across Years 10-11. Typically, seven groups are mixed ability A*-C and two smaller groups support C/D borderline pupils. Upper groups are generally 28 and smaller groups 10-20.

The seven A*-C classes follow AQA English and AQA English Literature courses, and all are entered for both English and Literature GCSE examinations. The two lower band

classes take a single exam in English Language & Literature. For September 2015 additional

teaching time has been allocated to Year 10, to accommodate the needs of the new specification. Year 10 will have 8 lessons and Year 11 6 lessons a fortnight.

“English is the subject I feel most confident in as I am given feedback often through individual comments in books and talking about targets. The class is rewarded for trying hard, so hard work doesn’t go unnoticed.”

Year 10 pupil

A Level



English is a popular subject in the Sixth Form. Typically, we run three groups each year for AS and A2, one being English Literature (AQA specification B) and two being English Language and Literature. There are nine one-hour lessons per fortnight together with a further non-supervised lesson.

Teaching is shared between two teachers for each group. Group sizes vary from year to year, but average some 18-22 students per group in Year 12.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We have run a variety of AS/A2 Study Days and theatre visits to enhance the curriculum. In addition the school has four Exploration Days each year where the emphasis is on creativity. Some of the previous Exploration Day events have been Year 7 Creative Writing linked to a visit to the local Sculpture Park, Year 8 visit to the Globe Theatre, Year 9/10 Poetry Workshops.

Faculty members are involved in preparing students for the Rotary Club Public Speaking competition, organising Theatre visits and the production of a creative writing magazine which celebrates students’ work.





Matthew Syed at the recent Blue Flag Middle Leadership Conference March 2015

The School is a National Teaching school, leading the Blue Flag Teaching School Alliance. This role brings opportunities for staff to work with colleagues in other schools, offer school-to-school support in specific areas, mentor School Direct placement student teachers, and further their leadership potential. The Head of Faculty has the scope to develop these activities further, particularly in developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning

Applicants are expected to support the Christian ethos of the School with its emphasis on moral and spiritual values, as well as concern for all pupils' physical, social, aesthetic and intellectual development.

Most teachers are expected to share in tutorial work, following their House form as they progress up the school. All tutors are expected to lead or preside over a daily brief act of worship with the tutor group at morning registration.

English Results 2014

Key Stage 3 (220 pupils)	Achieved	Progress Value-Added
% 5 + all pupils	97%	
% 6 + all pupils	78%	
% 7 + all pupils	34%	
GCSE English Language and Literature (52 pupils)		
% A* - C	56%	1001.2 (RAISE sig+)
% A* - A	6%	
English Language (168 pupils)		
% A* - C	97%	1001.2 (RAISE sig+)
% A* - A	38%	
English Literature (168 pupils)		
% A* - C	94%	
% A* - A	30%	
AS English Language & Literature (35 students)	Achieved	

A* - B	23%	ALPS grade 7
A* - C	100%	
AS English Literature (31 students)		Achieved
A* - B	45%	ALPS grade 7
A* - A	100%	
A2 English Language & Literature (39 students)		Achieved
A* - B	54%	ALPS grade 6
A* - A	100%	
A2 English Literature (11 students)		Achieved
A* - B	82%	ALPS grade 2
A* - A	100%	

The school value statement ‘always our best because everyone matters’ has become deeply embedded over time . . . and has a significant impact on relationships across the school.

SIAMS Inspection Report February 2015
that graded ‘outstanding’ in all four areas