

English at Queensbury

Welcome to our English Department. I hope the information below encourages you to apply for the position and look forward to meeting you if you are successful in being invited for interview.

The Department currently consists of seven members of staff – a welcome mixture of experience and teachers newer to the profession. We are a real team and work in a mutually supportive environment, sharing and developing resources and schemes of work, developing and refining ideas and working together through regular discussion at Department meetings and internal CPD sessions.

English is taught in the East Building in seven main classrooms, with smaller groups, including Sixth Form, using other available rooms close by. All teachers have access to interactive whiteboards and overhead projector facilities. In addition, ICT rooms are booked when required. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 visit the Library once a fortnight on a regular basis to build on independent research skills.

At Key Stage 3 students reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are developed to prepare them for the skills and demands of the new GCSEs. We follow a thematic approach with a range of non-fiction, fiction, Shakespeare and poetry explored through the units. In addition, we feel reading and enjoyment of literature is key to student success, and each student will also study a class book in each year.

We are currently rolling out a three year GCSE, encompassing Years 9-11. Currently in each year group we have a discreet top or excel set and mixed ability setting below. We truly believe that aiming for the top and addressing the potential of each student is key to their success with us. We have taken the decision to teach Literature and Language as separate subjects.

English remains a very popular choice with Sixth Form students with most of the Department teaching some A Level English. Currently, we offer courses in two English subjects at present: English Literature (AQA A) and the combined English Language & Literature course (AQA). Both courses are assessed by a mixture of NEA and final examinations and historically results have been very good, with our A2 Literature students in the top 1% of the country.

The Department also offers students a variety of extra-curricular activities to enhance learning, including in House magazines and supporting external competitions such as the BBC's 500 words and we would welcome any additions to our current programme. Enrichment and regular theatre visits are arranged for all year groups including creative writing trips to the British Library and in house theatre companies. Our students are confident and involved readers who participate in both Carnegie Shadowing and their own discreet Year based book groups run by our librarian.

Queensbury's English Department is a very supportive place to develop as a teacher and we have a history of developing our staff to successfully take on leadership role both within the Academy and elsewhere.

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.

Miss Mariette Hart
Head of Department