



# St Philomena's

## Catholic High School for Girls

### ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department consists of a team of nine specialist teachers and is based in a suite of English Rooms. Each room is equipped with an overhead projector and interactive whiteboard and all staff have their own tablet devices. We encourage teamwork and welcome innovation. We recognise the individualistic nature of English teaching and combine this with active support for the necessary compliance with National Curriculum requirements. We are committed to helping all students become confident and able speakers and listeners, appreciative and critical readers and fluent writers. At Key Stage 4, Years 10 and 11 follow the AQA GCSE specifications in English Language and English Literature. English is a very successful, popular and expanding A Level subject. Currently in the Sixth Form, two teaching sets study English Literature in Year 12 and two groups are studying English Literature in Year 13, as well as Year 12 and 13 English Language groups. The English department also offers Media Studies at both A'Level and GCSE.

The English department has outstanding achievement in examinations as outlined in the following summary of results over several years.

ENGLISH	GCSE Lang % A* - C	GCSE Lit % A* - C	A Level Lit % A – E	A Level Lit % A – B
2017	95 (4-9)	96 (4-9)	100	69
2016	91	92	100	41
2015	85	95	100	55
2014	91	95	100	88
2013	95	99	100	75
2012	95	98	98.5	64
2011	95	98	100	67
2010	99	97	100	69
2009	97	99	100	65
2008	97	95	100	64

English is a well-resourced department, which has carried out significant curriculum development. New Key Stage 3 schemes of learning have been developed to meet the requirements of the new National Curriculum, in particular through the renewed focus on 'high-quality' texts. Key Stage 4 schemes of learning have also been designed to ensure that students are rigorously prepared for the more new and more challenging GCSE qualifications. Key Stage 5 schemes meet all the syllabus requirements of the new A Level specifications, whilst offering the opportunity to support and extend all students. There is an emphasis on exciting and innovative teaching and learning experiences. We constantly review practice to refine and enrich our teaching.

The department has its own Assessment for Learning Policy. Learning intentions and success criteria are shared with students at the start of every lesson and reviewed during the plenary.

Following the discontinuation of national curriculum levels, the English department has also devised its own assessment system, designed to provide continuity with the new GCSEs.

The English department is committed to the promotion of extra-curricular activities. The English department runs a thriving KS3 Creative Writing group, a KS3 Reading Group and provides work experience to aspiring journalists in the sixth form through the Sutton Guardian Young Reporter scheme. We also run study visits which have involved trips to The Globe Theatre, Wilton's Music Hall, sixth form visits to lectures on key A Level texts, and performances from a visiting theatre company.

As of September 2017, the English department will be based in a suite of refurbished rooms in the Faustina Centre. The new facilities include two new Reading Hubs which will support students in the development of their independent reading.

The person appointed would join a lively, friendly and committed team, which works in a highly collaborative and supportive way. S/he would join the department as a welcomed and valued member of this team and would have an exciting opportunity to enhance and develop the work of this successful department.