



The English Department

The English Department at Alton School has been undergoing a comprehensive redevelopment over the past two years: we have tightened the focus on developing academic writing skills at KS3 through a series of class readers (three per year, per year group); adopted the Edexcel IGCSE Literature and Language A specifications, as well as setting, at KS4; and transitioned our A Level course to the linear AQA English Literature A specification. Additionally, we now have a KS3 reading club, the Carnegie Club, as well as a Public Speaking and Debating Club.

Currently four members of staff are involved in teaching English across the Senior School. They make a lively and committed team and the department's work has a strong emphasis on creative approaches.

Teaching in years 10 and 11 combines language and literature work; a recent moderator's report on the speaking and listening component for GCSE reads, "Candidates are offered a wide range of challenging oral activities and are given every opportunity to excel."

Below year 10 the department has the opportunity to develop a curriculum to suit its particular needs and this freedom is much valued by both pupils and staff.

In the Sixth Form students have the opportunity to study both AS and A2 English Literature and Media Studies to Advanced level.

The successful applicant will share Media Studies teaching.

Syllabuses followed:

GCSE AQA Specification A English and English Literature

A Level AQA English Literature Specification A

A Level AQA Media Studies.

Coursework is strongly favoured and the students are very responsive to being encouraged to reach their potential.

The English teachers are creative and keen to involve themselves beyond the curriculum. Workshops are run to help support pupils and there is opportunity for Creative Writing, Magazine, Book Club, Writing Journal and debating activities to be run. Any initiatives or innovative ideas would always be welcomed by the department.

The school has an excellent record of taking part in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competitions, having reached the national semi-finals last year. The School is currently preparing for a book day in March with a visiting poet; a poet and playwright will also visit the School in the same month.