

## **ENGLISH**

We are an all boys' school which provides an environment where traditional values and courtesy flourish. The boys' natural exuberance means that it is a joy to teach them English. Reading is cool with an established culture of peer recommendations of authors they love. Poetry is tackled as something of a conundrum combined with the opportunity to explore language and its impact. We do reverse the national trends which, in itself, provides high levels of job satisfaction.

The English Team has consistently contributed to the high level of performance of pupils in the school at both key stages and teachers are committed to ensuring that all pupils at The Forest School achieve their potential. Pupils are entered for both English and English Literature GCSE, following the AQA specification. We run a 2 year Key Stage 3 and a 3 year Key Stage 4.

The results we achieve in the English team show the excellent standards of which our pupils are capable. In 2017 we achieved 4-9 77% in English Language and 4-9 72% in English Literature, with a best combined score of 83%. This is significantly higher than the national figure for boys which is 4-9 56.5 % in English Language and 4-9 = 64.7% in English Literature,

We have an established track record for year on year improvement, hitting our targets across all levels of ability and all groups of learners.

Our aims are to deliver high standards of teaching and learning, to track and monitor individual pupil progress and to promote the highest quality of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening across the curriculum, in order to enhance academic achievement and for enjoyment. We are developing the use of ICT within schemes of work and the school's Virtual Learning Environment.

Year group monitoring programmes have identified English as a very strong area in terms of the quality of teaching. Lessons are described as being inspiring, motivating and challenging pupils and teachers demonstrate excellent subject and curriculum knowledge. Staff and pupils have excellent relationships and pupils are stretched and challenged in order to achieve their personal best. The successful candidate will be expected to have a record of demonstrating such skills in their own teaching.

As of September 2018 pupils entering in Year 7 are placed in mixed ability classes. This has had a positive effect on the attitudes and self-esteem of all pupils regardless of their ability level. Setting can often reinforce academic divisions, which can unsettle pupils as they transition from KS2 to KS3. We believe that mixed ability classes in Year 7 can boost standards and self-esteem among all students and supports our Growth Mindset ethos.

Setting arrangements continue through to Year 11 with pupils' work being closely monitored at all stages and targets set to ensure individual achievement. Prior attainment, baseline test scores, reading ages and spelling ages are used to set groups, to establish targets for individual pupils and to measure and promote progress.

We work closely with the Inclusion Team to ensure that pupils of all abilities can access the curriculum. We implement this through a paired reading scheme and a number of strategies promoting whole school literacy themes.

We have eight specialist classrooms. Staff teach in their own room and each is equipped with an interactive whiteboard. The Media Studies room is equipped with 8 state-of-the-art Apple Macs. The English and MFL teams share a recently refurbished work area.

As a subject team we enjoy sharing ideas and working together and there is ample scope for the person appointed to help to build on the successful developments to date. We pride ourselves on the quality of our relationships with pupils and the high standards that have been achieved. We participate in extra-curricular activities such as writers' workshops, theatre trips and debating as well as promoting extension opportunities for our More Able pupils.

The person appointed to this post will be expected to contribute to raising standards of achievement through innovative teaching to develop our boys as independent learners.

We are looking for a candidate who will proactively contribute to the on-going development of the team. Enthusiasm and high energy levels are a must, together with a positive attitude. Good interpersonal skills, a high level of motivational skills and the ability to work well under pressure are all key attributes for this post.