**English and Media Faculty Information**

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| **Faculty Vision**It is important to us that students enjoy English and Media lessons, that they are able to make tangible progress and constantly challenge themselves to do better. We want students in English and Media Studies to be inquisitive, independent and creative – to take risks, to think critically, to communicate effectively in speech and writing, to read and listen sensitively and with empathy and to make cultural and cross-curricular links.We aim to nurture and encourage creativity in both students and staff, ensure we keep up to date with new and innovative pedagogical developments in teaching and learning and provide a range of quality curriculum-enriching activities for students |

**Curriculum**

**Key Stage 3**

At KS3, our programmes of study are thematic in approach, underpinned by the overarching aims of the National Curriculum – to ensure that all pupils:

* Read easily, fluently and with good understanding;
* Develop the habit of reading widely and often, both for pleasure and information;
* Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
* Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage;
* Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences;
* Use discussion in order to learn; be able to elaborate and explain clear understanding and ideas
* Be competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Students also follow units from Debra Myhill’s Grammar for Writing scheme, to develop and consolidate their rudimentary technical skills.

Students read at least three extended texts a year and also take part in our Reading Passport scheme, which encourages reading widely and for pleasure.

**Key Stage 4**

At KS4, we follow AQA’s syllabi for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. In Year 10, students study a modern novel, a nineteenth century novel, poetry (anthology and unseen), literary fiction, literary non-fiction and non-fiction. Students also study descriptive writing, narrative writing and presenting a viewpoint. There are also ongoing opportunities for speaking and listening activities to underpin the study of language and literature throughout Year 10.

In Year 11, students will consolidate their understanding of the texts and topics covered in Year 10, but in addition, they will also study a Shakespeare play and a modern drama text.

The Year 9 Programme of Study is designed to prepare students for the rigours of the new GCSE courses, and the units mirror many of the skills and topics that will eventually form part of external examinations at the end of Year 11.

For GCSE Media Studies, we follow WJEC’s syllabus, which contains a mixture of examination and media production coursework.

**Key Stage 5**

At KS5, we follow AQA’s syllabi for A Level English Language and A Level English Literature. For AS English Language, we study Language and the Individual and Language Varieties; for the full A Level, we study Language, the Individual and Society and Language Diversity and Change.

For AS English Literature, we study Literary Genres – Drama and Literary Genres – Prose and Poetry; for the full A Level, we study Literary Genres – Tragedy or Comedy and Texts and Genres – Crime Writing or Political and Social Protest Writing.

For both A Level courses, there are non-exam assessments (NEA), which are worth 20%. For Language, this involves an investigation and original writing. For Literature, this involves comparative and critical reading.

**Enrichment**

We are absolutely committed to providing quality curriculum enriching experiences and activities. We have regular theatre visits, both locally and nationally, and often invite outside agencies into school to work with students of all ages and abilities. In recent years, this has included the RSC, storytellers, children’s authors, local theatre groups and collaborative projects with the Tyneside Cinema, the BBC, The Laing and Baltic galleries, The Sage Gateshead, the Evening Chronicle, the Literary and Philosophical Society, among many others. We also run residential trips to film festivals, London West End and New York Broadway shows.

We also provide opportunities for students of all age groups to enter creative writing, poetry, journalism and essay-writing competitions – both regionally and nationally.

Regular fixtures on our academic calendar for our sixth form students include A Level Study Days at Sheffield Hallam University, the Tyneside Cinema in collaboration with Newcastle University, The Institute of Ideas’ Debating Matters Competition and the Bar Mock Trial Competition at the Law Courts on Newcastle’s quayside.

**Faculty Facilities**

Our Faculty classrooms are dispersed across the school site, although we have a central hub area with a faculty staff room and work area, as well as a specialist media suite including ICT facilities. We have a very large stock of texts at all key stages and work closely with the library. We also have two sets of e-readers.

We have a Faculty website which serves as a repository for a wealth of teaching resources and we subscribe to all the major English teaching specialist resource providers, including Teachit, English and Media Centre, E-magazine, NATE and TES online.