**English Faculty Information**

The Faculty

Alderbrook’s English faculty comprises thirteen teachers, each of whom are committed to developing the teaching of English and raising achievement in the subject. Our results are a product of a determination to push all pupils to excel. We work together as a faculty to improve all areas of our practice and have a number of staff who specialise in Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, Media Studies and Intervention and Enhancement. We are a friendly and supportive department who genuinely love what we do!

Curriculum

Across all years, the English faculty promote reading, writing and speaking and listening skills through interactive, innovative and varied lessons. In years 7 and 8, pupils follow a different unit of work each half term, receiving regular feedback on their work to develop their ability and progress. In year 7, pupils also have a reading lesson each fortnight to encourage independent enjoyment of texts. Homework is set as a series of research tasks that push pupils to consider different aspects of the unit in their own way.

In year 9, pupils continue with English with more of a focus on some of the key skills needed for GCSE-level work.

In years 10 and 11, all pupils complete GCSEs in Language and Literature, using the AQA Examination Board. Our results at GCSE-level are excellent, and well above the national averages with ­­­over 80% of pupils achieving a grade C or above in both Language and Literature for the last 3 years consecutively.

Assessment

In Key Stage 3, pupils complete two short assessments each half term meaning that their reading, writing and speaking and listening skills are regularly tracked.

In Key Stage 4, pupils complete assessments every half term based upon the new AQA examination criteria in Language and Literature.

Setting

We set pupils early in year 7, based on their Key Stage 2 results. Setting is designed to be flexible and we review each class in Key Stage 3 every term to ensure that pupils are in the right place to succeed. Teaching and learning is differentiated for different sets and we have a wide choice of different approaches for different classes.

In Key Stage 4, we set based on pupils’ target grades, meaning that every child is challenged appropriately. This also enables pupils to better their targets through targeted extension work, designed specifically for the level that they are working towards.

Extra-Curricular

Alderbrook runs several theatre and cinema trips over the course of the year. In addition, we are involved in the YouthSpeaks public speaking and the Solihull Poetry Slam competitions. We also run the ‘Really Broad Reading’ award, promoting independence and choice in reading material. We also run a number of clubs focused on intervention with underperforming groups of pupils.