

The English department consists of a committed team of 14 specialists all of whom teach across the age and ability range. The department is housed at the heart of the school; vibrant, welcoming, and close to an ICT suite and the well resourced school library. All of the English rooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards which are used by English staff in their lessons in wide ranging and imaginative ways.

In Key Stage 3, students study a broad range of texts and media units, and are given the opportunity to write and speak in a number of different styles. Lessons are active and varied and the English department has close links with the Drama department, although Drama is taught as a separate curriculum subject.

The department delivers the AQA GCSE syllabus in both English Language and English Literature and results are strong. We follow a ‘split teaching’ model for this key stage, with students having 2 lessons a week with their dedicated literature teacher, and 2 lessons a week with their language teacher.

At A level we currently offer the AQA B syllabus for English Literature and take up is very healthy, with two groups in each year. We also offer AQA English Language A level and this is equally popular. All A level groups have two teachers and results are consistently excellent. A Level students participate in many trips, including lecture days on Othello and trips to the Cheltenham Literature Festival. Our Year 13 subject ambassadors also lead the BBC School Report club which we encourage key stage 3 students to participate in. There is also a popular debating club in Years 12 and 13.

The department also offers an exciting program of extra curricular activities. This year alone, students have been on a number of theatre trips, including A Christmas Carol, Blood Brothers, Twelfth Night and Macbeth. The department regularly enters students’ work in national writing and poetry competitions. We have had a number of visiting theatre groups in school and visiting writers. Public speaking is also strong here with students regularly competing, with much success, in ESU competitions. Extracurricular activities are something that the department value highly and English is a popular and dynamic subject, and department at The Cotswold School.

**Laura Sewell**

**Head of English.**