



**Welcome to the English Department at Holy Cross High School**

September 2017

Dear Applicant

We are delighted to be able to offer the opportunity for an ambitious, highly motivated, experienced teacher of English to lead our thriving English department. Our aim is to ensure every child, regardless of ability or background, achieves or exceeds their targets and leaves school with a love of reading and writing. We strive, through the teaching of English, to produce confident and empathetic young adults, who are articulate and have a sense of self-worth.

In 2017 80% of our pupils achieved Grade 4 or above in English Language and 80% Grade 4 or above in English Literature. We are looking for a dynamic leader to help us maintain our outstanding results so far with a keen focus on achievement for all, and even greater success.

The staffing of the department is Head of English, Assistant Head of English, Lead Teacher for English and four full time specialist English teachers. The department has seven suited rooms with interactive whiteboards, audio-visual facilities and a wide range of other resources.

We currently teach AQA Language and Literature at KS4 and are developing and adapting our schemes of learning for the new curriculum. At KS3, our focus is to improve reading as well as ensuring our schemes of learning enable the students to achieve their potential at Key Stage 4. Promoting a love of reading, in the classroom and out, is vital for our pupils’ literacy development. The Accelerated Reader programme is now used by Years 7, 8 and 9, and encourages our pupils’ independent reading of fiction outside the classroom. Our Library and ICT suite have been crucial in the implementation of this scheme. Pupils are taught in sets according to ability. Teachers normally take the same group in Years 8 and 9 and in 10 and 11 in order to ensure continuity. There are many well-established departmental policies in place.

Extra-curricular activities are well attended and a key part of our students’ development. Currently, we encourage our pupils to take part in numerous activities including writing competitions the Rotary Club’s Youth Speaks competition, as well as numerous theatre visits throughout the year. We would expect the new head of department to lead by example in making a significant contribution to our extra-curricular programme.

Should you have any questions about us, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at p.morris@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

I look forward to meeting you.

Paul Morris

Assistant Headteacher

Line Manager for English