



# STRATFORD GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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Dear Fellow Teacher

When assuming a role as a Head of English in any school, you hope that you can inherit students who have a level of natural creativity and imagination - students who have an ingrained passion for reading who are willing to enrich their understanding of texts through discussion, debate, analysis and role-play. At the very least, you hope that you can inspire confidence in the more reluctant readers and writers, giving them the opportunity to excel in the subject even if it is not where their true interests lie. Since taking on the role of Head of English here at SGGS, I have been truly spoiled. The pride that the girls take in their learning; their relentless desire to achieve; and most importantly, their enjoyment of expressing ideas and opinions creatively, has meant that my experience of teaching here has been incredibly rewarding.

As a department, we are keen to nurture the girls' natural curiosity and love of learning, whether that be through the development of a diverse curriculum at all key stages, through exploring a range of different texts from across genres and time periods, or through offering a variety of extra-curricular enrichment opportunities. We pride ourselves on our ability to listen and respond to the needs of students, adapting our practice and offering support and intervention where needed. We like to think that our students are given both the opportunity to explore their own ideas, and also clear direction by our specialist team of teachers when required. It is through this balance that we aim to achieve outstanding outcomes from our girls.

As a member of our department, you would be fully embraced as a highly valued specialist of your discipline and, as such, given the opportunity to channel your interests and specialisms through your teaching. With support from the team, you would be guided through our curriculum, teaching and assessment policies and given the support to enable you to build your confidence as a practitioner. We are a team who work together closely, consistently sharing best practice and collaborating on curriculum design and assessment matters. As you may be aware, there have been significant changes to exams procedure and assessment at all key stages over the past couple of years and, as a department, we have worked hard to embrace these changes as an opportunity to evolve as a team. In addition, we are also all supportive of the diverse range of enrichment opportunities we offer.

Some of the highlights of our school year include the 'Poet Laureate of the Year' competition, run in parallel with our National Poetry Day celebrations. We receive entries from across all Key Stages, all exploring different themes and ideas – expressed through rich imagery and carefully considered structure. One of our most recent winners was giving the opportunity to perform her poem at the RSC theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon during our Day of Celebration. As we move into March, World Book Day is celebrated to excess with the girls (and most staff) dressing up as characters from books. This year we had the whole of Year 11 depicting characters from *Horrible Histories* and Year 13 recreating the story of Noah. As well as this, we welcome authors into the school to run creative writing workshops and this year, we even welcomed Professor David Crystal to the school who delivered lectures to a number of students and parents. We have an active creative writing group, take part in National public speaking competitions such as Rotary Youth Speaks and we work closely with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, supporting the annual Shakespeare Lecture.

I hope that I have been able to give you a sense of our department ethos and the learning culture here at the school. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to ask, either by phone or by e-mail to [cooper.j@sggs.org.uk](mailto:cooper.j@sggs.org.uk). I will try to get back to you as soon as I can. If the SGGS I have described sounds right for you, we look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully

Joel Cooper  
Head of English