

Dallam School

English Department Details

English is a very successful, forward thinking department enjoying a high profile within the school. It aims to provide a creative and stimulating curriculum for all students at Key Stages 3-5. There are currently 8 members of the department:

- Jenny Hauxwell – Head of Department
- Catherine Firth – Lead Practitioner and Literacy Co-ordinator
- Luke Stephenson – KS5 Second in Department
- Nicola Jermy – KS4 Second in Department
- Clare Cronshaw
- Kirstin Smith – Assistant Head of Sixth Form
- Paula Regan
- Kate Hennessy-Garside i/c Media Studies
- Eryn Holding i/c Media Studies

Results at GCSE, A Level and in the International Baccalaureate are consistently very strong. Under the current Head of Department there has also been a renewed emphasis on establishing firm foundations of skills at Key Stage 3 to better prepare students for the reformed GCSEs, A-levels and International Baccalaureate. There is a strong emphasis on collaborative planning. We have strong links with the University of Cumbria, the South Cumbria School Centered Initial Teacher Training and the South Lakes Federation. The department also has strong links with feeder primary schools and is looking closely at the implications of the new testing arrangements for Key Stage 2 and the transition work that this will require. We are actively involved in the school's Gifted and Talented programme.

Currently, all Key Stage 3 classes have 7 x 60 minute lessons of English per fortnight, and 8 lessons at KS4. Most year groups – except for the current Year 11 – are now taught in mixed ability classes.

All students are entered for Edexcel English Language and English Literature GCSE and results are regularly amongst the highest in Cumbria. We also offer BTEC Media Studies. A-Level English Literature is an extremely popular and successful option. As well as A-Level we offer the International Baccalaureate, English A: Literature at Standard and Higher level and English B: Language at Standard and Higher level. Media Studies A-Level has proved a popular choice particularly the practical production of film-making. Again in 2017 this will become a level 3 BTEC which will sit within our post 16 vocational offer the international Baccalaureate career Programme (IBCP). Many students go on to study English and media-based courses at university.

The department is accommodated in a new teaching block with a full resources/media suite area. All rooms have interactive whiteboards.

Good use is made of the Learning Resource Centre, liaising closely with two excellent chartered librarians. The department is keen to encourage independent reading, book clubs, author visits and the KS3 reading challenge. Competitions are regularly run and promoted through English lessons. The school embarked on Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader Scheme in September 2013 and this is now fully embedded in Years 7 and 8.

The department organizes theatre trips to a variety of venues and regularly invites touring groups into school to perform to pupils. We value live theatre as not only a means of supporting the curriculum but also to help foster

a love of literature in its own right. The department has enjoyed considerable success in the Rotary Club's "Youth Speaks" event and also enters pupils in the Fielding Prize for Literature each year.

Dallam's curriculum is based around the principles of outdoor and adventurous activity which are embodied in the Dallam Learner Profile (DLP). The English department is keen to ensure that the soft skills of the DLP are embedded in our classroom practice at all levels

The posts advertised reflect the steady growth of student numbers and the growth of the Sixth Form. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to teach across the age and ability range. An interest in teaching media will be useful but not essential.

Jenny Hauxwell
Head of English
September 2018