

The English Department

Information for Candidates

The Department consists of the Director of Learning for English and Media, The Associate Head of English for KS3, The Associate Head of English for KS4 and seven specialist teachers, including an Assistant Principal in charge of Teaching and Learning, the Head of Sixth Form and the Head of Media Studies. There is a strong, supportive, collegiate ethos to the Department.

The department is successful in obtaining high levels for our students. At GCSE we have just achieved results of 81% 9-4 in the new GCSE English Language and English Literature course. There are two successful and popular AS/A Level courses: OCR English Literature and OCR English Language and Literature. We currently teach over 70 pupils in the Sixth Form with 54% of candidates achieving Grades A*-B in 2017.

The Department has a number of dedicated rooms which are equipped with a computer, interactive whiteboard, projector and AV facilities. There is a very well equipped Learning Resources Centre adjacent to the English area and the Department works closely with the Centre manager/librarian in charge.

There is ready access to a bank of laptop computers and to 4 computer suites available through the school's on-line booking procedures. There is also a dedicated suite of Apple computers exclusively for the use of AS and Media Studies students under the auspices of the Head of Media Studies.

Year 7 and 8 are taught 7 times a fortnight. Pupils are set into upper and parallel middle/lower ability groups after the first term. Year 9 classes have 6 lessons per fortnight. CCS Flightpaths are the means by which Learning Targets are set and through which pupils develop understanding of their own progression needs at KS3.

At KS4, pupils are set more rigorously in Year 10. There are two bands of four hierarchical sets with all pupils following AQA Specifications. GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are taken by all pupils. The timetable allocation is 8 lessons per 2-week timetable cycle at KS4. At KS5, pupils are taught for 9 lesson per fortnight with two teachers sharing each group. There are currently six teaching groups in Year 12 and 13

The approach of the department is to provide a clear supportive framework from which teachers can develop their own approaches, utilise their own talents and specialisms and provide a varied, challenging and stimulating experience for their pupils.

There will be opportunities to become involved in Gifted & Talented provision; extra-curricular activities; educational visits; competitions; examination booster and extension classes.