

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Ofsted – January 2015

(English Specific Inspection Feedback)

“Clear evidence of consistently good progress. Achievement in key stage 4 is very, very good, rapid and sustained.

Inter-personal relationships between students and teachers are very well developed and students respond to teachers’ high expectations by setting their sights on achieving well above their target. Very well-planned and delivered lessons at key stage 5 are aiding students in making very good progress. It is clear that teachers are very committed”

The English Department is well resourced and situated in seven classrooms, organized around a central office and large resources area. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard

The new classroom block has provided the school with an additional 9 classrooms, a meeting room, a staff room, an informal mezzanine area and a new general office.

The English Department

‘English is more than reading and writing. It is the ability to think things through to a logical conclusion and to be able to express this so others can understand.’

Teaching takes place in five one-hour periods per day and follows a two-week timetable. The time allocation for English is six hours per fortnight in years 7-9, 7 hours per fortnight in year 10 and 8 hours per fortnight in year 11. KS5 is allocated five hours of teaching per week. The department is constantly reviewing its schemes of work and has a wide variety of units available, closely linked to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study.

Curriculum summary: Years 7-8

In years 7 - 8 students build upon their knowledge and skills acquired from their primary years, in preparation for the

transition to studying for their GCSEs. They are given the opportunity to read from a variety of forms including fiction novels, short stories across a range of genres and poetry. Non-fiction and media texts are also studied. Everyone studies at least two Shakespeare plays and pre and post 20th century written work. Students learn about how language and literature are influenced by language development, society, history and culture. They also develop skills of creative writing, along with how to critically analyse texts and develop a personal, critical viewpoint.

Years 9 - 11

These are the GCSE years and students follow the syllabuses for GCSE English Language and English Literature as set by the AQA exam board. There will be the opportunity to read different types of writing: fiction, such as novels, short stories and poems. Non-fiction and media texts are also covered. Everyone will study a play by Shakespeare and work written before and after the twentieth century. Students learn how society, history and culture influence literature. Students are also taught how to write creatively as well as critically analysing a text and developing a personal critical view-point.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CONT.

KS5

The department offers English Literature at A level and teaches the course following the syllabus as set by the AQA exam board.

The study of Literature is fascinating. It provides insights into the human condition and the influences which shape our lives. The process of studying literature develops a number of skills which have application in all areas. These include: the ability to write effectively for a range of audiences and in a variety of styles, and the ability to make judgments based on textual evidence. Literature also helps to provide an understanding of how the use of language shapes meaning and how examples of values and attitudes in the texts are related to their social and historical contexts.

Course Description – KS5

The course develops students' ability to:

- Be articulate and creative, to make informed and relevant responses to literary texts, using appropriate terminology and concepts, and coherent, accurate written expression.
- Demonstrate detailed critical understanding in analysing the ways in which structure, form and language shape meanings in literary texts.
- Explore connections and comparisons between different literary texts, informed by interpretations of other readers.
- Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.

Student performance Summary

KS4

In 2016, 72% of students achieved A*-C grades in their GCSE Language and 80% in English Literature.

KS5

100% of students passed English A Level