



THE ENGLISH FACULTY

The English Faculty at Verulam School consists of nine members of staff. The Director of English is assisted by co-ordinators in both KS3 and KS5.

Director of English – Mrs P Avery (KS4)

Mr R Skipper (Head of Sixth Form)

Mr I Jordan (KS5)

Mr T Wallace (KS3)

Mr J Tromans (Head of Year 10)

Mrs J Mitchell

Miss V Thomas (Media)

Mr B Jameson

Schools Direct Trainee

The Faculty is dynamic and innovative and we seek to provide all pupils with the key skills necessary to foster a love of both language and literature. High expectations of all pupils across the school have created a learning without limits ethos in the Faculty's teaching and learning provision. An integral aspect of this is creative teaching, a value adding use of homework and parallel study as well as extracurricular provision such as gifted and talented classes.

The Faculty is accommodated in a suite of rooms and has easy access to a well stocked Library.

The English Faculty takes a leading role in the school's initial teacher training partnership with the University of Hertfordshire and the Alban Federation for ITT provision. This reflects Verulam's commitment to continuing professional development.

THE CURRICULUM

It is an expectation of the Faculty that the teaching of the curriculum should be creative and innovative and it is a key expectation that all students are provided with the same standard and range of experience of texts and tasks. We aim for consistency in provision. Pupils have four periods per week, and all lessons are 50 minutes long.

KEY STAGE THREE

During Key Stage 3 pupils study a different Shakespeare play each year; a range of poetry and fiction and non-fiction textual analysis via extracts from a range of modern and nineteenth century texts. In addition, boys will also study whole texts and track their private reading using the Renaissance Learning online system, offering the students the opportunity to work towards becoming self-managing, independent learners. All classes in Key Stage 3 undergo a weekly spelling test and are expected to reading privately to ensure that they are reading approximately one book every 2-3 weeks. Students experience a rich variety of discourse aimed at providing a realistic, useful and inspiring perspective of the world in which they live. In Year 9, the classes are set into 4 groups on either side of the year based upon prior attainment and KS3 predictors.

Drama is housed in a fully equipped black box studio space with sound and lighting facilities and prop storage.

In Year 7, students look at the foundation of practical Drama with a particular focus on slapstick comedy and silent films. In Year 8 students embark on building a foundation in Media Studies. Extracurricular Drama is extremely popular at Verulam with a large cohort regularly attending KS3 Drama club and whole school productions attracting a large number of students. Theatre trips run on a regular basis with tickets in great demand.

KEY STAGE FOUR

In Years 10 & 11, all pupils follow the AQA English Language and English Literature Course. Students are provided with the opportunity to study a range of engaging texts, from traditional Shakespearean plays and poetry to current newspaper articles. We enter boys for their GCSE English Literature in year 10 and in year 11 we enter them for their English Language GCSE. A number of students also study GCSE Media, learning about how words and images are used in modern mediums, such as film and advertising. Classes are set on the basis of their ability, the lower sets being considerably smaller in order to support less able pupils.

A LEVEL/BTEC

We offer A Level English Literature (AQA option B) covering a range of texts from 'Othello' to 'Brighton Rock'. We also teach BTec Media Studies, which is a popular choice for pupils and helps our students to organise the media production process and understand how to create professional looking products to an agreed schedule.