

English at Queensbury

Welcome to our English Department. I hope the information below encourages you to apply for the position and look forward to meeting you if you are successful in being invited for interview.

We are proud to be the most successful Department in the Academy. In 2016 we achieved over 80% A* - C in GCSE English with over two thirds of our students making expected progress and over 40% at exceeding.

The Department currently consists of seven members of staff – a lovely mixture of experience and teachers newer to the profession. We are a real team and work in a mutually supportive environment, sharing and developing schemes of work, trying out new teaching ideas and working together through regular discussion at Department meetings in order to maintain high standards across all year groups.

English is taught in the East Building in seven main classrooms, with smaller groups, including Sixth Form, using other available rooms close by. All teachers have access to interactive whiteboards and overhead projector facilities. In addition, ICT rooms are booked when required. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 visit the Library once a fortnight on a regular basis to build on independent research skills.

At Key Stage 3 students reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to prepare them for assessment at the end of year 11 in the newly reformed GCSEs. They will be prepared to take two GCSEs in English Language and Literature and will develop the necessary skills in their lessons and independent study at home.

We are currently rolling out a three year GCSE, encompassing Years 9-11. Currently in each year group we have a discreet top or excel set and mixed ability setting below. We truly believe that aiming for the top and believing in the potential of each student is key to their success with us.

English remains a popular choice with Sixth Form students with most of the Department teaching some A Level English. Currently, we offer courses in two English subjects at present: English Literature (AQA A) and the combined English Language & Literature course (AQA). Both courses are assessed by a mixture of coursework and final examinations and results are very good, with our A2 Literature students last year in the top 1% of the country.

The Department also offers students a variety of extra-curricular activities to enhance learning. However, we would welcome any additions to our current programme. Regular theatre visits are arranged. In addition, students are given the opportunity to participate in shadowing the Carnegie Book Award and students are also able to join the Sixth Form book group and Key Stage Three book group, run by the Librarian.

The department really is a mutually supportive place to develop as a teacher and we have a history of developing our staff to successfully take on leadership within the Academy and elsewhere.

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.

Miss Mariette Hart
Head of Department