

The English Faculty at Wolsingham School

The English department consists of a team of 5 enthusiastic and passionate specialists who are committed to continuous improvement: our vision statement – “Creativity. Collaboration. Community.” - underpins all that we do. Student achievement in English at GCSE is strong, with a four-year trend of improvement. This summer, all of our A level students secured their first choice university places.

Recent developments in the department include implementing specification changes at KS4 and KS5 and the introduction of a new KS3 curriculum and supporting assessment model. As a school, we have made the move to mixed ability teaching at KS3, which is an exciting opportunity for collaboration and fresh thinking. We have enjoyed huge success with ‘catch-up students’ and the Year 7 nurture group by using the Read, Write Inc. phonics model to promote and develop reading and spelling skills.

All KS3 students take part in the Accelerated Reader programme which both raises the profile of reading across the whole school and has improved the standard of reading and literacy. We have Master School status and regularly provide support to visiting schools as well as liaising with local primary partner schools.

At Key Stage 4, students study GCSE English and GCSE Literature (AQA). English Literature and English Language are offered at A Level (AQA) and our small class sizes allow for individualised teaching and learning. The department is made up of 5 specialist classrooms, fully equipped and enjoying beautiful views of the surrounding grounds.

We value the extra-curricular aspect of English education and strive to enrich the curriculum in each key stage. A broad range of activities are offered each year with students enjoying theatre visits to see productions of *Blood Brothers*, *Of Mice and Men* and *A Christmas Carol*; we offer the opportunity to take part in a residential writing masterclass and as part of the summer terms’ activity week, host an al fresco creative writing workshop.

Ruth Stansfield
Leader for English