TRING SCHOOL

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

# STAFFING

The Department consists of sixteen English specialists, three teaching assistants and an administration assistant. We deliver the English curriculum across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

English is a leading department within the school; we are a forward-thinking department that embrace whole-school initiatives in learning and teaching. We work collaboratively and share resources across the department. The Subject Leader has overall responsibility for the quality of teaching and learning across the whole of the English Department and is strongly supported by members of the team holding positions of responsibility. You will join us at an exciting time as we are merging the Media and Film Studies department and extending our specialism.

### ENGLISH TEACHING FACILITIES

# The English Department benefits from a suite of rooms where specialists teach. The suite is equipped with projectors and all staff have their own Chromebook. Visualisers are shared amongst teaching staff and i-pads are available for use. Adjacent to the classrooms is a central English Office for staff use. Pupils are actively encouraged to use the facilities of the very well resourced Learning Resource Centre in addition to the 1:1 Chromebook availability in the school.

# CURRICULUM

Teaching at Key Stage 3 is based on the National Curriculum Programme of Study with previous GCSE texts used in exciting and challenging schemes of work for Years 7 and 8. These enable pupils to continue to improve their written, reading and speaking and listening skills. We review schemes of work regularly so that they are relevant, challenging and appropriate for our students' needs. Pupils are set by ability in Years 7, 8.

At Key Stage 4 students follow the OCR specification for English Language and Literature. Detailed schemes of work are in place for both specifications. Our students approach their study of English through a variety of mediums, which makes the materials taught accessible and engaging whilst encouraging them to develop as independent learners, with a love of reading. We aim to give students the opportunity to go to the theatre to see performances of set texts, or visit poets/writers in forum to hear them speak about their work. Again, students are set according to ability in Years 9 to 11.

A-Level English Literature is also delivered using the OCR Programme of Study. A-Level students are all encouraged to benefit from the theatre visits and opportunities to attend lectures on set texts or to hear poets/writers speaking about their work. Many of our students continue their study of English at university.

Assessment for Learning is fully entrenched across all three key stages. Across all Key Stages, students track their progress with an assessment matrix and are fully aware of their forecast grades and targets for improvement. Subject teachers in English use a range of assessment processes, including peer and self assessment.

At Key Stage 4 examination results have improved year on year. Examination results in 2017 were: 85% 9-4 English Language GCSE and 88% 9-4 Literature GCSE; accounting for the continuing popularity at A Level. Results at KS5 were 86% A\*-C at A2. The English Department has also worked hard to raise whole school results with 92.8% of students achieving a Grade 4 and above in Language and Literature GCSEs last summer..

The department have a developed transition programme in place for students moving from KS2 to 3. We meet and moderate written work with our primary colleagues and we deliver and assess a project with Year 6 pupils, working closely with our MAT school.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR**

For the past six years students have taken part in the Citizenship Foundation Mock Trial Competition which takes place in a Magistrates’ Court. We have also entered the Mock Bar Trial with our Key Stage 4 and 5 students. We have won our local heat on two occasions and once competed in the National Final. Students have risen to the challenge of competing against other schools and developing their speaking and listening skills and their knowledge of law.

We actively encourage students to enter poetry and writing competitions; several of our students had poems published in 'The Poetry Games' anthology. We are always looking to introduce poetry or writing competitions to encourage students' creativity. The 'Penrunners' creative writing club allows students to develop their creative writing skills, entering the BBC 500 words competition more formally.

Every year we run the Carnegie and Excelsior Reading Group with a number of students. This is always a popular club and students are keen to read the nominated novels and share their views through written reviews and discussion. We are continuing to liaise with staff in the Learning Resource Centre, so that enrichment activities such as 'Storytelling' events and visiting authors, inspire a love of reading.

Writing and debating clubs are popular and in recent years our students have taken on the challenge of high profile competitions such as the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition.

Theatre trips are not only arranged for studied texts but also for enrichment. Recent trips have included: An Inspector Calls, The Tempest, The Woman in Black, The Kite Runner and for a visiting company to perform extracts from Shakespeare and Romeo and Juliet.

**FUTURE:**

The department is forward looking and continuously seeking new resources and strategies to improve the quality of both learning and teaching. We are highly regarded in the school and constantly seek to better our practice for students and our own professional development. We have high standards for ourselves and students; teaching and learning is tailored to meet individual needs and all our students aspire to achieve excellent results.

Tring School

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