

Information for Candidates

The English Department

The English department at Parklands currently consists of ten full time English teachers, including two members of SLT, and is in the fortunate position of all colleagues being English specialists.

Most English lessons take place along a corridor of ten classrooms, each with interactive whiteboards and some with Apple TV. In addition, there is a designated English office, which is the hub of the department. There are two stockrooms for class sets of reading books, textbooks and resources and three other additional spaces for storage. Every Key Stage Three class visits the school's LRC one per fortnight to read for pleasure and use the Accelerated Reader package.

The English classrooms are arranged with group work and collaboration in mind, with a mixture of circular tables, triangular tables and square tables used in different rooms. The department has a set of bookable iPads which are used in a variety of ways to aid learning. A variety of websites and computer software packages are used by the department, including Accelerated Reader, GCSE Pod and Google Classroom. There is a real focus on getting the most out of technology in the department, including using Google Drive. Homework and revision opportunities are posted online on Google Classroom and sent to parents and students via email.

As a team we are constantly trying to improve teaching and learning and enhance the experiences of the students. We firmly believe that raising the profile of English and increasing the pupils' enjoyment and curiosity of the subject will lead to ever improving attainment and progress figures.

All students currently follow the Eduqas (WJEC) GCSE specification in both English Language and English Literature. We are continuing to adapt our schemes of work and assessments to ensure students are prepared for the challenge and rigour of the new exams. We work in teams to produce schemes of work and learning journeys which highlight the links to other areas of English. As a department we have taken a unique approach to the teaching of the new Key Stage 4 curriculum by developing an interleaving overview of the units to be covered. This, we believe, enables the pupils to gain a deeper knowledge of the subject and helps them to prepare for the rigours of the new GCSE exams by constantly asking them to look back on their previous learning. Blind assessments are commonplace in both Key Stages. We also have five GCSE exam markers in the department, covering three of the four papers; this allows us to gain

a deeper insight into the demands of the new curriculum and this knowledge is shared within the department.

The curriculum at Key Stage Three also allows members of the department individuality in both the choice of materials and approach, supported by regular moderation of work and sharing of good practice. One of our aims in English at Parklands is to ensure that the Key Stage Three curriculum not only prepares the pupils for the GCSE exams, but for life after school as well.

Over recent years attainment at GCSE has been high in both English Language and English Literature. A priority for us is to improve the progress and outcomes for key groups of students and build on our historically excellent exam results. We are a dynamic and forward thinking department and are confident in our abilities to improve the rates of progress for all of our pupils.