

## Post 16

A Level students follow the OCR syllabus, which has been tailored specifically to meet the needs of our students in the Sixth Form. The course covers a wide range of texts in depth, including:

- Literary heritage texts
- Poetry
- Pre-1700 texts
- American Literature
- Post-2000 texts
- Shakespeare
- Texts from other cultures

At the end of the course, pupils will take two examinations worth 40% each of the total grade. During Year 13 pupils will also complete coursework assignments worth 20% of the total grade. Five hours of preparation will be set every week, and in addition the students are expected to independently read around their current topic in order to extend their learning.

Students studying English Literature at our school will find the subject to be rewarding, topical and taught by teachers with extensive subject knowledge. Consequently, our end of course results are always outstanding.

Furthermore, in order to enrich the course, we organise a number of theatre trips and offer a book group. These activities will sharpen the students' public speaking and critical thinking skills, whilst also preparing them well for future life and study. There is also a weekly Club which is open to all KS5 English Literature students.



### Contact details

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**ENGLISH,  
FILM AND MEDIA  
DEPARTMENT**

# ENGLISH



**St Albans Girls' School**  
Specialist Business and Enterprise Academy



## The English, Film and Media Department at STAGS

Our department consists of professional, knowledgeable and dedicated colleagues, all of whom share a real passion for English Language and Literature.

Consequently, the lessons that we teach are consistently engaging, where valuable learning takes place in a warm and supportive environment. We are also fortunate to have access to interactive technology in every classroom.

These factors enable us to deliver excellent results at all Key Stages. We achieved outstanding GCSE and A Level results in 2017: at GCSE 89.6% of students achieved a Grade of 9-5, and 51.3% achieved a Grade of 9-7 in English, with 37 Grade 9s at GCSE. At A Level 96.7% achieved A\*-C and 33.3% achieved A\*/A Grades in English Literature.



The EFM Department also promotes **Literacy** across the whole school at STAGS through a number of activities and opportunities. Key literacy skills are encouraged and prioritised across the curriculum, with initiatives such as STAGS READS, visits from popular authors and creative writing competitions involving the whole school community. We aim to provide a firm grounding in fundamental literacy skills promoting success in examinations and throughout later life.

## Key Stage Three

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully prepared to ensure that the **transition** from Primary school to Secondary is as smooth as possible. We teach a range of texts throughout each year, but pupils can expect to study:

- Two novels
- Drama, including Shakespeare
- Poetry
- Non-fiction

Girls will be taught the core **reading and writing skills** required in order to make the necessary progress, and grammatical aptitude features strongly in our KS3 English programme in addition to separate Literacy lessons in Year 7. The **Accelerated Reader** programme monitors students' reading ability and encourages wider reading throughout KS3. **Assessment** will take the form of routine classroom based assessment and also formal half-term assessments. Students are taught in form groups in Years 7 and 8.

**Speaking and listening** forms an integral part of the KS3 programme, with pupils being assessed regularly in an individual, group and paired setting, as well as through class discussions.

**Home Learning** will be set weekly, and will aim to consolidate classroom learning and assess pupils' understanding, whilst always stretching and challenging the minds of our girls.

### Extra Curricular:

**KS3 English Club:** weekly club to extend learning during lunchtime.

**Literacy Lab:** weekly lunchtime club of literacy games

**Writing Competitions & Reading Clubs**

**Brilliant Books:** a day of teamwork and activities designed to promote interest in all aspects of books, writing and reading.

### Key Stage Three Co-ordinator:

**Miss A Whybrow**

## Key Stage Four

The Key Stage 4 curriculum follows the AQA syllabus, and we offer English Language and English Literature GCSEs. These courses have been very carefully designed and we will teach a range of texts throughout the courses, including:

- 19th century novel
- Shakespeare text
- A range of poetry
- Modern Drama or Prose text
- Non-fiction from the 19th to 21st century

Girls will be taught the core **reading and writing skills** required in order to achieve or exceed their target in both GCSEs. **Assessment** will take the form of classroom based assessing, Home Learning and mock exams to prepare students for the exams at the end of Year 11.

Students are grouped according to their externally based (FFT) targets from Year 9 onwards.

To enrich and encourage relevant skills and textual comprehension, **speaking and listening** is evaluated alongside the GCSE courses, with pupils being assessed regularly in an individual, group and paired setting, as well as through class discussions to enrich and encourage these vital skills as well as textual comprehension in English and other subjects.

**Home Learning** at GCSE level will always relate to the exam criteria. These tasks will consolidate classroom learning and assess pupils' understanding, whilst always stretching and challenging the minds of our girls. Pupils are expected to undertake independent reading at home alongside their home learning tasks.

**Extra Curricular:** A range of opportunities are provided including theatre trips and study days where possible.

**English Club** is a weekly club to extend learning and offer support for KS4 students after school.