**The English Department, West Lakes Academy**

**The Team**

We are an enthusiastic, committed and driven team who have high expectations of our students. The department comprises of twelve members of staff and a support assistant all of whom work together as a cohesive and friendly team.

The department is led by a Director of English and there are three Key Stage Coordinators in post. The Literacy Coordinator is also a member of the English team. We are a strong and supportive department, always looking for opportunities to develop our practice and to take a leading role in the further development of the academy. We enjoy collaborating with other organisations and improving our practice through research in the classroom.

**Results 2017**

English GCSE results 2017 - 87% 9-4, 71% 9-5

Average English progress 8 score is 0.285.

A Level English Language 100% pass rate

A Level English Literature 100% pass rate

**The Curriculum**

**KS3**

The academy offers an accelerated two-year KS3 curriculum. Students study a variety of units which assess and develop their reading, writing and speaking and listening skills and inspire them in a life-long enjoyment of English. Levels of attainment are assessed through our own internal levels system and standardised across the department. KS3 students have four lessons a week.

**KS4**

Students follow different pathways depending on their learner profile. All students follow AQA’s GCSE English Literature and English Language courses. Some students also follow AQA’s Step Up to English qualification. We also offer Media Studies as an option subject. KS4 students have five lessons a week.

**KS5**

We offer three ‘A’ levels: AQA Spec. B English Language, AQA Spec. B English Literature and AQA Media Studies. Our courses are extremely popular at A-Level and our retention rates at A2 are always close to 100%. ‘A’ level students have five lessons a week.

**Enrichment Activities**

**Promoting and Supporting “Reading for Pleasure”**

Reading is at the heart of everything we do here at West Lakes Academy. The department applied for ‘Reading School’ status from Scholastic earlier this year and we are thrilled to announce that this was approved. This is testament to all of the work the whole academy does in promoting reading for pleasure.

The department runs several different Kindle reading clubs that shadow awards over the course of the school year, including the Roald Dahl Funny Award for students in Year 7, the Carnegie Children’s Literature Award for Key Stage 3 students and the Man Booker for students in Key Stage 5.

Some Sixth Form students are reading ambassadors for students of year 7 and 8 and they listen to students read during library time.  We also have 20 reading ambassadors across years 8 and 9. These students visit local primary schools to listen to younger students read and to promote their love for reading.

The department also runs the academy’s “Shelfie” in the Library. Each week, a member of staff displays their top ten favourite books and comments on why others should read them. In their tutor groups, students also contribute to our “ Student Shelfie”.

**English Prefects & Ambassadors**

Some students in Year 10 are given the opportunity to become English Prefects. They lead our student voice and help support younger students with their English studies. They have also created our own website and upload videos to help students with their SPaG skills.

We also have Year 12 English Language and English Literature Prefects. In this role, students support younger students in their English lessons and promote English and a love for reading across the academy.

**Extra Curricular Activities**

The English department arrange a number of extra-curricular activities for students including educational visits and visiting speakers. We work closely with Dove Cottage in Grasmere and our students are given the opportunity to gain an Arts Award in conjunction with them. Lecturers from the University of Cumbria visit the academy to provide students with sessions that will extend their learning/knowledge and enrich them. We regularly schedule trips to the cinema or hold in school live screenings of plays and adaptations which link to texts we are studying as part of the curriculum.

We provide our students with the opportunity to take part in national competitions, such as Poetry by Heart, and we have had students’ work published in a collection of creative writing stories alongside other schools. As part of being a Reading School, we host the Scholastic Book Fair to promote a love of reading throughout the academy.

We also host the academy’s Film Club, this is held after school on Mondays in the English area where students of all ages are invited to watch, discuss and review movies.