

English Department

Our department is a forward thinking and highly regarded team both in school and across Lancashire. We are highly motivated and at the forefront of all new government initiatives; we pride ourselves on being a highly innovative and successful department who are committed to delivering the syllabus through independent learning and critical thinking.

The department has eleven dedicated teachers and a highly efficient and respected Curriculum Support Assistant (CSA) who helps to ensure that support, resources and administration are available to colleagues at all times. This helps the smooth running and improved effectiveness of the English team and our teaching.

As a department, which strives to encourage self-determination in our pupils; we create lessons which are engaging, challenging and provide opportunities for pupils to be independent and take responsibility for their own learning. Our lessons are active and ensure that all learning styles are met during the teaching of required skills.

Facilities

Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard and the department has an English computer suite, equipped with 28 personal computers which support our teaching. We also have a set of 32 Think Pads which the pupils can use in their lessons with the ability for teachers to synchronise their own Microsoft Surfaces with the pupils, offering valuable learning experiences for pupils through modelling and annotation of peers' pieces of work as a class. Media software such as video editing has been downloaded onto the machines, which are used weekly by all media classes.

We have a non-fiction and fiction library in school, where staff are encouraged to take their classes to promote independent research and learning and nurture the enthusiasm for reading; all KS3 pupils have reading focused lessons within English to ensure the reading assessment objectives are routinely delivered. Year 7 pupils also have a dedicated Literacy lesson taught by English staff to encourage them to recognise the need to implement their literacy skills in all lessons.

A Drama Complex, equipped with a professional stage and lighting, provides facilities for delivering dynamic and innovative learning. This is regularly used to promote the importance of speaking and listening and communication skills throughout both Key Stages. We also use this area to provide regular opportunities for pupils to see the texts we are studying come alive on stage by inviting local acting companies into school. The department also recognise the impact of organising external trips for pupils to further enhance their learning and progress.

Well stocked with up to date text books, class readers, resources, media, DVDs and other equipment, the English Department constantly works to update and maintain resources to ensure pupil interest.

Key Stage 3

Throughout Key Stage 3, pupils study reading, writing and speaking and listening skills and carry out assessments in each area. Pupils complete formative assessment tasks during every unit to enable them to self-reflect and evaluate their strengths and areas of development before completing their summative assessment. After each summative assessment data is collected allowing for rigorous tracking of the pupils' progress. Underachieving pupils can then be recognised quickly and bespoke intervention can be put in place.

The topics we study during each term are listed below;

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9 – preparation for GCSE
Term one: Gothic fiction (Dracula and Frankenstein)	Term one: Narrative writing and 'Romeo and Juliet'	Term one: Alternative fairy tale writing and GCSE poetry anthology
Term two: Other cultures poetry and Transactional writing	Term two: Transactional Writing and reading scheme	Term two: Transactional article writing and GCSE reading scheme
Term three: 'Lamb to the Slaughter' – reading and writing assessment	Term three: Informal letter writing and character analysis using 'Of Mice and Men'	Term three: Studying character and theme in 'An Inspector Calls'

Key Stage 4

Our GCSE pupils are following the Eduqas GCSE English and English literature qualifications. Our first year of results are a true reflection of the hard work and commitment of our staff, as well as the enthusiasm pupils have for our lessons.

Eduqas GCSE in English Language

The GCSE English Language qualification will:

- be assessed by examination
- have speaking skills assessed but this will not contribute to the overall grade. The assessment will be marked by teachers and reported separately, alongside the qualification grade on the certificate
- include 20% of the marks for the written exams which will be allocated to accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar

- be untiered
- be fully linear with assessments available in the summer series.

The GCSE in English Language encourages pupils to read fluently and write effectively.

Subject Content:

The qualification is made up of two externally assessed examination components and one internally assessed non-examination component. The internally assessed non-examination component tests spoken language skills.

There is a slightly heavier weighting on the non-fiction Reading and Writing in Component 2 than on the literature and creative writing in Component 1, in order to ensure that skills for work, life and further education are prioritised.

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of the qualification

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Written examination: 2 hours

60% of the qualification

Component 3: Spoken Language

No-exam assessment

Unweighted

Eduqas GCSE in English Literature

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in English Literature encourages pupils to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. It provides pupils with opportunities to read widely for pleasure across a range of high quality texts in the genres of prose, poetry and drama and to develop an understanding of how literature is both rich and influential.

The GCSE in English Literature enables pupils to:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- develop the habit of reading widely and often
- appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

Subject Content

The qualification is made up of two externally assessed components. Both components allow pupils to show their depth and breadth of knowledge through varied assessments.

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours

40% of the qualification

Component 2: Post 1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes

60% of the qualification

GCSE Results 2017 (before calculation of remarks)

English Language

Grade 7-9 = 17%

Grade 5+ = 53%

Grade 4+ = 71%

English Literature

Grade 7-9 = 9.3%

Grade 5+ = 43%

Grade 4+ = 65%

English Best

Grade 7+ = 17%

Grade 5+ = 58%

Grade 4+ = 76%

Continuing professional development

Regular training is held both within the department and externally. Teachers are encouraged to deliver as well as receive CPD that is relevant to the short, medium and long term improvement plans of the school and English team.

We very much hope that this provides a clear overview of the English Department at Ribblesdale. We are all very excited about the future of English teaching and welcome your application.