

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The department is currently made up of twelve experienced teachers who work collaboratively to provide an excellent learning environment for our students. We are fully staffed, currently with a Head of Department a Second in Department and a Key Stage Three Co-Ordinator. Most colleagues teach across the key stages, including A-level, and outstanding subject knowledge is a key feature of the department.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum reflects the national changes to GCSE that have taken place over recent years. The Key Stage 3 curriculum that we follow prepares students for the demands of national assessments while promoting a love of literature and enhancing students' cultural capital. Within a broad structure there is a creative and dynamic approach to teaching the subject, allowing teachers to share their passion and enthusiasm for English. We currently teach mixed ability in Year 7 and 8 and subsequently in sets through to Year 11. There is access to an interactive whiteboard in every classroom.

Students make the transition to GCSE during the final term of Year 9 and our curriculum provides the opportunity for all students to access both English Language and English Literature at GCSE level. We follow the AQA courses for GCSE English Language and English Literature. In 2019, 83.6% of Year 11 students gained Levels 9 - 4 in both English and Maths, with 87.4% gaining a Level 9 - 4 in either English Language or English Literature, 84.6 % achieving Levels 9 – 4 in English Language and 69% achieving Levels 9 – 4 in English Literature.

There is a clear focus on literacy within our schemes of work. Our Head of English has been working alongside the Literacy Co-ordinator towards implementing Disciplinary Literacy across the whole curriculum. The Learning Resource Centre at King Edward VI School is a hub for cross-curricular work and all departments access the curriculum through the LRC, particularly during Key Stage 3. In particular the English department aims to encourage all students to read widely and independently through links to the LRC. We have strong links to the Learning Support department through which specialist provision is provided in KS3 and KS4 to support learning in and beyond the classroom.

English Language and English Literature A-levels are very popular options in our large, successful 6th Form. We offer two year linear courses. We usually have two or three classes for A Level English Literature for each cohort and at least one group for English Language. Our A Level results, particularly in Literature, are consistently above the national average.

The department also offers a wide range of enrichment activities such as a successful debating team and theatre performances in and out of school, including a Year 11 trip to Derby Theatre in December of 2019 to watch a production of 'A Christmas Carol'.

The English department has a strong team ethos, we enjoy a culture where staff readily share resources and we are willing to learn from each other. We are keen to see the department develop a high profile within the school and the local area, sharing and developing good practice.