

The English Department



Staffing

- **Val Koczy** Head of Department. English teacher. Full time. (Retiring)
- **Michael Muralee** 2nd in subject. English teacher. Full time.
- **Lizzie Atkinson** English teacher plus Year Leader for Year 7. Full time.
- **Leanne Bevan** Drama and Media teacher and teacher of English at KS3. Full time.
- **Chloe Butlin** English teacher plus Research and Super Curriculum Lead. Part time. Currently seconded part-time to EEF as Literacy Content Lead. Will return to full-time in September 2024.
- **Robert McKirdy** English teacher. Full time.
- **Catherine Rogan** English and Media teacher. Full time.
- **Natalie Shinkwin** English teacher. Full time. (Temporary)
- **Laura Stamp** English teacher. Part time (Currently on maternity leave)

All members of the department are English and Drama specialists and where possible teach across the full age and ability range.

As a department, there is a very high level of cooperation and mutual support. We have a real sense of common purpose and have high expectations of ourselves and of the pupils.

Background

There is a strong commitment to mixed ability teaching within the department and pupils are taught in such groups from Years 7 to 11. Continuity within each Key Stage is another priority; where possible pupils are taught by one teacher and in the same group up to the end of KS3. After this there is a “re-shuffle” before moving into Y10, where the new group will stay with one teacher until the end of the GCSE course.

In Y7 students are taught for four one hour periods per week.

In Y8 students are taught for three one hour period per week.

In Y9 students are taught for four one hour periods per week.

Y10 & Y11 students are taught for five one hour periods per week.

At Advanced Level, students have five periods per week. If the High School site has three hours of teaching in Year 12 and Beverley Grammar School site has two hours in Year 12, the hours are swapped in Year 13 or vice versa.

Courses

Key Stage 3:

All pupils are taught through shared schemes of work which have been developed by the department in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum and take account of the KS3 strategy. These schemes are largely based on literary texts with development of language skills informing the content of each scheme. The department also sees the delivery of ICT skills as part of its whole school role and incorporates this into its schemes in Years 7, 8 and 9.

At this Key Stage one period per week is allocated to Drama and alternates every half term to focus on the crafting of language.

Key Stage 4:

All pupils follow the AQA Specification A for both English Language and English Literature.

GCSE Drama is an option which is popular at KS4. Students follow the AQA syllabus and achieve very good results.

GCSE Media is also popular in KS4.

Advanced Level Courses

Students are offered AQA Literature and AQA Language Specifications. Both courses are popular.

Students are offered the AQA Media Studies Specification which is very popular and although still a new subject to the department has achieved excellent results.

The AQA syllabus is offered for A level Theatre Studies.

This year we have introduced the Film Studies option.

We have also introduced a trip to New York that will cover the humanities and music department.

The Environment:

Most teaching is delivered in a suite of four rooms which adjoin a central office. There are two areas for stock and equipment. There are two offices in the area with each member of staff allocated their own workstation and computer.

There is a purpose-built Drama room with sound and light systems

All English rooms have interactive whiteboard facilities which incorporates a DVD facility as well as a range of audio-visual equipment and visualisers. The department is also very well stocked in terms of texts and teacher reference materials.

The delivery of ICT is facilitated through the four ICT suites, each of which can accommodate a full teaching group and can be booked for the duration of a module of work. ICT is actively encouraged in the Department as part of teaching and learning.

The role of the department within the school:

The English department provides Drama clubs and pupils are kept informed about a range of competitions and encouraged to enter their work. A high level of success has been achieved in these areas as well as giving students a sense of participation in local and national events. The drama department put on performance evenings and participate in a wide range of theatre trips.

Our partners:

There is an excellent relationship between the High School English department and that of Beverley Grammar School. There are also very good links with our partnership schools through transition units designed to enhance progression and continuity between KS2 and KS3.