



Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 College (in the nearby village of Stewartby), are both operated by Wootton Academy Trust [WAT]. The two institutions are 3 miles apart and linked by a shuttle bus.

WAT is ambitious and its vision is to provide outstanding education in all of its component parts.

Wootton Upper School, with 900 pupils across Years 9 -11, was rated good by Ofsted in November 2017. Results across the core subjects are very high. GCSE English and GCSE Science results in 2017, and 2018 were well-above the national average. In Mathematics results were above the national average. Progress 8 in 2017 was 0.13 and 0.27 in 2018.

Kimberley 16 - 19 College has 500 students. 300 students joined Y12 in September and the total number of students is expected to increase further to 600 in September 2019. Around 200 pupils in each year group join the College from Wootton Upper School; the rest join from other local schools.

Kimberley is rated as good by Ofsted with outstanding for Personal Development, Behaviour and Well-being. For the last three years the College has been in the Sunday Times list of top Sixth Form Colleges in the UK based on the proportion of students getting 2As and 1B or better in facilitating subjects. In 2017 Kimberley College was ranked as the 11th highest Sixth Form College in the UK; in 2018 it was 25th.

The English Department

Our department aims to nurture each individual student building their skills and confidence so that they grow into critical readers and effective communicators, developing the analytical skills needed to succeed at GCSE, A-Level and beyond.

English is a high profile subject at Wootton Academy Trust, and our team delights in the variety our subject offers and the opportunities it affords to explore ideas, emotions and language in a creative context. We are a highly motivated and collaborative team of eleven, which includes seven full-time and four part-time members of staff. We are also fortunate to mentor trainees within the department and are proud that many permanent members of staff applied for their positions following a successful training placement. Staff and trainees who have joined our team in recent years comment on what an incredibly collaborative, well organised and positive working environment we have established.

We pride ourselves on having high aspirations for all and aim to provide quality teaching that enables pupils to achieve their potential. The department has an excellent track record at GCSE level, and students regularly make progress significantly above national average. This is highlighted by our excellent GCSE English results in both 2017 and 2018. In 2017, core English 9-4 attainment was 89%, and 35% of pupils achieved grades 9-7. Our outcomes for higher prior attainers were particularly impressive with 28 pupils also being awarded the new grade 9 level. The overall Progress 8 for English was +0.7, with Pupil Premium children also making progress significantly above national average and achieving a Progress 8 score of +0.4. These results were almost matched in 2018 with a Progress 8 score of +0.6. We aim to keep improving on these outstanding results, and always welcome new ideas and approaches to enhance pupils' achievement at all levels.

A-level English is also popular within the Trust, and we currently offer all three English disciplines: English Literature, English Language and Literature and English Language. A-level English subjects are taught exclusively at Kimberley College but many English teaching staff have the opportunity to share in this teaching and develop their expertise at this level.

We enjoy positive relationships with our pupils who are responsive and enthusiastic in their learning within the department. When our pupils arrive in Wootton in Year 9, we work to encourage exploration of English as a valuable subject in its own right, and also to prepare them for the transition to GCSE study and beyond. The department's dedication and commitment to ensuring outstanding outcomes for all pupils was recognised in Wootton Upper School's Ofsted report.

We are a highly respected department within the Trust and members make a great contribution to whole school life. We have recently led good practice training sessions for the whole Trust and we run extra-curricular activities in the form of theatre trips, public speaking and debating competitions, whilst also providing individual support to pupils who need extra help to achieve their potential.

For further information on the English department please contact Simon Frazer, Vice Principal, sfrazer@wootton.beds.sch.uk.