

Gosford Hill School

English Faculty



Ethos

English at Gosford Hill is about reading and discussing literature in order to see the world from other points of view, based on the belief that literature – and, more generally, the study of English – can encourage us to view other ways of life (and other people) with understanding. Students are encouraged to cultivate an enjoyment of words, and of using them well: precisely, carefully, wittily. We care about students being able to communicate effectively and confidently, both aloud and on paper. Further, we aim for students to come out of English lessons a little more equipped to deal with the modern world: to analyse how words are used, to see through false or misleading language and to be able to present a point of view articulately.

The belief of the faculty is that learning and teaching should be accessible to all students – and that every student should be supported and challenged to achieve their best while enjoying their English studies. We hope that this year we can build on last year's superb English GCSE results.



Curriculum

The faculty follows the AQA specification for GCSE English Language and English Literature. At A Level the department follows AQA Specification B for Literature and Edexcel for Language and Literature.

Most faculty members teach across all key stages.

Students are currently taught in mixed ability groups from Year 7 to Year 10; in the 2016-17 academic year all students will be taught in mixed ability groups.

The curriculum in English ensures that students develop a wide range of skills involving reading, writing and speaking and listening. Drama is also incorporated into lessons to develop an active aspect to learning – as well as to bring to life the plays studied.

Students are exposed to a wide range of literary fiction and non-fiction and are encouraged to develop a passion and enjoyment for the subject. The Accelerated Reader scheme is ensuring that Key Stage 3 students in particular are enjoying stretching themselves in their reading.

Extra-Curricular Provision

The faculty have developed a rich variety of trips for students across all year groups. Where possible, theatre trips are arranged in order for students to see performances of the texts they are studying. Visits to the likes of the Dickens' museum further develop students' knowledge of the writers studied.

Students are encouraged to write creatively and enter a range of competitions such as the Young Writers poetry award as well as short story competitions. The students at Gosford Hill have a successful history of published work in these areas. Furthermore, a group of students follow the Shadow Carnegie Award annually. The faculty has also developed a public speaking group that enter the Winston Churchill speaking competition at Blenheim Palace.

Examination Results

Examination Results 2016 in English			
GCSE	No. of Students	%A*/A	%A*-C
GCSE English Language	150	13%	62%
GCSE English Literature	144	17%	75%
A LEVEL	No. of Students	%A*-B	%A*-E
AS Language and Literature	10	20%	90%
A2 Language and Literature	11	27%	100%
AS Literature	11	36%	100%
A2 Literature	6	50%	100%



Staffing, Resources and Accommodation

The English Faculty is a committed and passionate team of six specialists. The department is friendly, supportive and forward-looking. Close links exist between English, Drama and the Learning Centre. We also have specialist reading and literacy HTLAs working with us.

The department has six teaching rooms as well as use of the Learning Centre. Each classroom is equipped with a data projector and smart boards. Schemes of work, resources and assessments are being developed for all key stages in response to recent curriculum changes.

Informal visits to the school are welcome; please telephone to make an appointment to be shown around.

Gosford Hill School is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Due to this post having access to children and/or vulnerable adults, candidates will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post, as all cases are judged individually according to the nature of the role and information provided. Gosford Hill School operates a 'No Smoking Policy' for all new appointments. January 2017