



THE HOLLINS

English at The Hollins: Department Intent

The Russian poet and novelist, Boris Pasternak, said that literature is the art of discovering something extraordinary about ordinary people. At The Hollins, we help our students discover that 'something extraordinary' within themselves. In English, we help them discover how to express it.

But in an area of Lancashire with a rich heritage of culture and diversity, how do we recognise our extraordinary voice? In a community that has its own unique challenges, how do we strengthen it?

The English Department at The Hollins believes that every pupil deserves a challenging curriculum that instils passion in the English language and everything that has - and can be - achieved by it. We want our pupils to experience the awe and wonder found in the rich tapestry of world literature, rediscovering this time and again throughout their lives. Our pupils should have lessons delivered by dedicated, enthusiastic, compassionate experts who are still always aspiring to learn more and be better. We want classrooms that are safe forums for lively debate, havens of studious discovery, and crucibles of wondrous imagination. And we believe our pupils deserve opportunities to reflect on the past voices of others so that they can begin to find their own.

To meet these aspirations:

- Our course of study fulfils the aims and content of the National Curriculum, as well as imbuing each lesson with opportunities for social, moral, spiritual and cultural development;
- We provide regular opportunities – timetabled and otherwise – for pupils at The Hollins to choose and read books independently for challenge, interest and enjoyment;
- We continue to strive to work with our local primary schools to extend knowledge, skills and understanding by sharing good practice, delivering transition lessons, and mapping our curriculum to flow naturally from KS2;
- Our staff undertake regular professional development to constantly improve their teaching, whether that's by investigating a new text to share with their class, developing a different approach to teaching vocabulary, or collaborating with other experts on personalising learning for pupils with additional needs;
- Lessons offer a balance of teacher instruction, group discussion, paired collaboration and independent assessment so that our students are given every opportunity to hear the opinions of others before ultimately expressing their own.
- We teach to the top ability but offer steps on the learning ladder through questioning, peer support, task choice and other strategies, so that all pupils reach their potential.
- We offer theatre trips, book clubs, blogging opportunities and writing competitions to allow pupils at The Hollins to indulge a passion for English, whether it is long-held or newly-blossomed.

And so, in reflection of The Hollins 7 Core Values, our pupils will be kind and honest citizens who know how important it is to be responsible and respectful with the written and spoken word. Our pupils will be reflective readers who understand the value of language in shaping and sharing cultural identities. Our pupils will be resilient academics who recognise the virtue of practice, revisions and independent perseverance.

And our pupils will be aspirational thinkers who seek not only to match the best of what's been thought and written, but will strive to exceed it.