

The English Department

Staffing

- **Val Koczy** Head of Department. English teacher. Full time.
- **Michael Muralee** 2nd in subject. English teacher. Full time.
- **Leanne Bevan** Teacher of Drama and Media at KS4 and teacher of English at KS3. Full time.
- **Chloe Butlin** English teacher. Literacy Lead, Research Lead and Super Curriculum Lead. Full time
- **Sarah Holmes** English teacher and NQT/ITT Induction Tutor. Part time.
- **Catherine Rogan** English teacher and Progress Leader of Year 7. Full time.
- **Laura Stamp** English teacher. International post. Full time
- **Sophie Grant** English teacher. Part time, temporary
- **Richard Lees** Media and English teacher. Part time, temporary

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.

We also have staff who are holders of TLRs and actively participate in research and strive hard to move the department forward.

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 & 9, students are taught for four one hour periods per week.

In Y8, students are taught for three one hour periods per week

In Y10 & 11, students are taught for five one hour periods per week.

At Advanced Level, Year 12 and 13 have five periods per week. The hours are split 3/2 in alternate years. If you teach Year 12 two hours, then you will teach three hours with them in Year 13

Courses

Key Stage 3:

We believe that reading is the key to success, not only in English but across a whole range of subjects, and we ensure that students of all abilities are challenged and taken out of their comfort zone through the study of classic texts from the literary canon. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to make these great stories accessible to each and every one of our students, regardless of ability. From the epics of Ancient Greece to Shakespeare, from the Romantic poets to Dickens and Orwell, we provide a curriculum which

takes our students through the story of English literature with the aim of empowering our pupils with the cultural knowledge which has shaped our collective thinking through the ages.

At this Key Stage, one period per week is allocated to Drama and alternates every half term to the crafting of language which incorporates the technical skills required to achieve excellence in this area.

Key Stage 4:

Following on from a very broad and challenging curriculum at key stage 3, the foundations are in place for all pupils to follow the AQA Specification for both English Language and English Literature and we consistently achieve excellent results.

GCSE Drama and Media are popular options at GCSE. Students follow the AQA syllabus and achieve excellent results.

Advanced Level Courses

Students are offered AQA Literature B and AQA English Language. Both courses are very popular.

Students are offered the AQA Media Studies Specification which is also a very popular choice and has achieved excellent results.

We would like to reintroduce theatre studies into what we already offer at A Level.

The Environment:

Most teaching is delivered in a suite of four rooms with both English offices situated in the same area. There are two areas for stock and equipment. All English staff have their own work station in the offices and there are interactive whiteboards in all the English teaching rooms with visualisers to enhance teaching and learning.

There is a purpose-built Drama room with sound and light systems where all Year 9 and GCSE Drama takes place. Most other drama lessons are also timetabled here.

The delivery of ICT is facilitated through the four ICT suites, each of which can accommodate a full teaching group and can be pre-booked. iPads can be booked for use in class. ICT is actively encouraged in the Department as part of teaching and learning.

The role of the department within the school:

The English department take a lead in reading across the whole of the school. Registration reading incorporates challenging books at all key stages except year 11 where the tutor time is more independent to their requirements in their final year. Each year has tutor led reading twice a week to develop understanding, literacy skills and enjoyment of novels. There is also a morning registration period dedicated to reading and discussion of non-literature articles that are sent each week for pupils to read and then discuss in registration time. The English department also 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. Drama and Theatre studies students put on performance evenings and participate in a wide range of theatre trips.

Our partners:

We work as a joint sixth form with Beverley Grammar School.