

English Department

**Our Community:**

The English Department at Poole High School consists of 25 members of staff who collectively bring experience, diverse subject knowledge and peer support to the team. Many of the teachers within the department hold additional responsibilities within the school, making it a dynamic and forward thinking department which plays a key role in whole school developments.

**The Curriculum:**

The curriculum in English at Poole High School not only ensures that students have the skills required for success in examinations but aims to develop resilient learners who have a passion for language and literature. Our programmes of study cover a wide variety of novels, poems and plays from different eras and cultures, and are designed to encourage our pupils to see the significant benefits that reading for pleasure can bring.

Our GCSE Foundation course prepares students for the GCSE courses in Language and Literature. Students follow a curriculum that encourages them to think, to enjoy English and to develop as readers and writers. Students needing to catch up in English benefit from additional timetabled lessons and reading support.

KS4 students study for AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature qualifications. Both GCSEs are taught simultaneously and are assessed in four exams (two for each GCSE) which are taken at the end of year 11. Our aim is to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all students.

Students are also offered the opportunity to continue their English education through full course A Level English Lang/Lit and A Level Literature courses.  At this Key Stage, as well as others, we intend to capture students' interest and give them a secure and signposted route for learning in a climate that is healthy and empowers them to reach their full potential.

**Resources and Facilities Available:**

The department has an extensive collection of texts and textbooks covering all genres. Each classroom is equipped with a desktop, whiteboard and many of them also have visualisers. In addition, students in years 7 and 8 are timetabled lessons in the school library which is well-stocked with a wide range of texts.

**Our Results and Achievements:**

GCSE Language achieved P8 -0.46.

GCSE Literature P8 -0.49.

ALPS grade for A Level Lang/Lit was 8 and Literature 4.

**Team Activities, Teamwork and Planning**:

We regularly organise trips for students, mostly centred around set texts but sometimes subject knowledge based - Visiting Ferndown School to hear David Crystal speak, or cultural - visiting Paris with A Level students.

**Training Support:**

Whilst we are a large department, we are also a close-knit and supportive community who work collaboratively on planning and ensuring that our provision is of the highest standard possible. We have two coaches with the department and mentor ITT students each year.

**Other exciting things that happen:**

Marking Friday, where hot drinks and cakes ease the pain of marking, is highlight of the English department's week.

The department are concluding their recent trial which has brought about changes to the marking policy. This has had a significant impact on staff workload.