



English at Woking High School

Staffing and structure

The Subject Leader has the overview of all initiatives and practices and is supported by a Second in Department. Each member of the English Department has roles and responsibilities linked to their personal interests and the opportunities for professional development within the Department are excellent. The Department also has a shared English/Maths Technician.

Accommodation

The Department has its own teaching block consisting of eight classrooms, a small group room, a department office and resource room. Each room has access to audio/video equipment and has an interactive whiteboard. We take the environment for learning seriously and student achievements are proudly displayed in the entrance hall, the upper corridor and inside classrooms.

Curriculum

Our resources at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 have recently been updated and improved.

Imaginative and creative Schemes of Learning at Key Stage 3 bring the National Curriculum to life, and meaningful assessment opportunities regularly inform students of their progress. The KS3 curriculum has been designed to effectively prepare students for GCSE study, but at the same time enthuse them with a love of literature and language. Each year, students will study poetry, a novel, Shakespeare, non-fiction and focus on developing both their functional and creative writing. Each year is also thematically linked to add depth to students' reading experience, moving from Contemporary Texts to Literary Heritage and finally Other Cultures. Reading for pleasure is a key focus for the Department and we support students in their wider reading through reading projects and an assigned reading lesson once a fortnight.

At Key Stage 4, GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are studied through the OCR specifications. Students experience separate Language and Literature lessons with opportunity for each subject to support the other. For example, the synchronised study of 19th century fiction in Literature lessons alongside reading extracts from non-fiction of the same time period in Language lessons.

Enrichment activities

A wide programme of enrichment activities and off-site visits complement the English curriculum. All members of the Department are asked to take a lead role in organizing an enrichment activity. We look for opportunities for students to see performances wherever possible and we also regularly take Year 7 to tour the Globe Theatre. A successful Year 9, 10 and 11 Debate Team and a Public Speaking Team are coached each year to participate in the Surrey Great Debate and the Woking and District Rotary Club Public Speaking competition. The English Department take a full and active role in the Day 11 programme including activities such as poetry workshops, off-site visits and Spoken Language performances. We are also very proud of our after school seminars for KS4 students. Teachers from the English Department (and occasionally special guests) offer A Level style seminars on an advertised topic. Recent seminars have covered Roland Barthes, Psychoanalysis, Russian Literature and The Illusion of Free Will to name but a few. The aim is to prepare students for further study and broaden their cultural capital.