



English Learning Area

LEARNING AREA

The English Learning Area consists of five classrooms and a learning base. The learning base is open plan where up to seventy-two students are team taught. Each classroom has an interactive Smart Board while the Learning Base has three interactive Smart Boards and computer facilities.

The English Learning Area is forward looking, creative, collaborative and highly effective. Never ones to rest on our laurels the English Learning Area strives to continually improve and inspire.

STAFFING

Currently, eleven teachers work alongside Teach First and Schools Direct trainees in the department. Two full-time teachers work on our unique literacy programme. We also train PGCE students. Responsibility in the area is shared between a Deputy Head and a Head of English.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Last year 45% of students gained a Grade 5 or above at GCSE, this compares well against a national average of 44% Grade 5 and above. At A level we have a 100% pass rate with an average of 36% of students gaining A*-B. In Film Studies, 66% of students gained B or above.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Learning Area groups students according to ability. At Key Stage 3 students are taught in two parallel bands with four groups in each band. At Key Stage 4 students are grouped according to ability lineally.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 receive three hours of English and one and a half hours of Literacy and skills. Year 8 receive three hours of lessons a week. A small group of students in Year 7 and 8 follow a literacy curriculum.

Students at KS3 follow a modular programme which aims to bridge the gap between primary and secondary whilst also equipping students with the skills required for GCSE. We wish to infuse our students with a love of language and literature and as a result students receive a broad education in Year 7 and 8. We are very well resourced.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, students study for Eduqas GCSEs in Language and Literature. Students in Key Stage 4 receive four and a half hours of teaching.

Our expectation is that every student makes four levels of progress and achieves their potential. All our students study language and literature.

Key Stage 5

In the Sixth Form we run three very popular programmes. We teach A levels in Literature, Language and Film Studies. The Literature and Language syllabi are from OCR, Film Studies from WJEC.

ENRICHMENT

We run many popular after-school activities. We have successfully entered students in Key Stage 3 for public speaking competitions, provide sessions that encourage wider reading and run the school publication alongside student volunteers.

For enrichment we have taken Key Stage 3 to the Pantomime or a West End musical while Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students have visited several theatres including the RSC in Stratford and the National Theatre in London.