

# **Dallam School**

## **English Department Details**

English is a very successful, forward thinking department enjoying a high profile within the school. It aims to provide a creative and stimulating curriculum for all students at Key Stages 3-5. There are currently nine members of the department:

- Juliet Cooke – Head of Department
- Catherine Firth – Lead Practitioner and Literacy Co-ordinator
- Claire Cronshaw – Second in Department
- Kirstin Smith – Assistant Head of Sixth Form
- Paula Regan
- Christopher Bates
- Bev Pink – acting i/c Media Studies
- Catherine Crossman
- Rachel Harvey

Results at GCSE, A Level and in the International Baccalaureate are consistently very strong. Under the current Head of Department there has also been a renewed emphasis on establishing firm foundations of skills at Key Stage 3 to better prepare students for the reformed GCSEs and A' levels. There is a strong emphasis on collaborative planning. We have strong links with the University of Cumbria and the English Department takes a key role in the South Cumbria School Centered Initial Teacher Training. The department also has strong links with feeder primary schools and is looking closely at the implications of the new testing arrangements for Key Stage 2 and the transition work that this will require. We are actively involved in the school's Gifted and Talented programme.

Currently, all Key Stage 3 classes have 3 x 60 minute lessons of English per week, and 4 lessons at KS4. KS3 is currently taught in mixed ability classes although this is open for review. From 2017 the school will move to a three year Key Stage 4.

All students are entered for both English Language and English Literature GCSE and results are regularly amongst the highest in Cumbria. We also offer GCSE Media Studies.; this will become a level 2 BTEC in 2017. A' Level English Literature is an extremely popular and successful option. As well as A' Level we offer the International Baccalaureate, English A: Literature at Standard and Higher level and English B: Language at Standard and Higher level. Media Studies A' Level has proved a popular choice particularly the practical production of film-making. Again in 2017 this will become a level 3 BTEC which will sit within our post 16 vocational offer the international Baccalaureate career Programme (IBCP). Many students go on to study English and media-based courses at university.

The department is accommodated in a new teaching block with a full resources/media suite area. All rooms have interactive whiteboards.

Good use is made of the Learning Resource Centre, liaising closely with two excellent chartered librarians. The department is keen to encourage independent reading, book clubs, author visits and the KS3 reading challenge. Competitions are regularly run and promoted through English lessons. The school embarked on Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader Scheme in September 2013 and this is now fully embedded in Years 7 and 8.

The department organises regular theatre trips to a variety of venues. We value theatre trips as not only a means of supporting the curriculum but also to help foster a love of literature in its own right. The department has enjoyed considerable success in the Rotary Club's "Youth Speaks" event.

Dallam's curriculum is based around the principles of outdoor and adventurous activity which are embodied in the Dallam Learner Profile (DLP). The English department is keen to ensure that the soft skills of the DLP are embedded in our classroom practice at all levels.

The posts advertised reflect the steady growth of student numbers at Year 7 and the growth of the Sixth Form. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to teach across the age and ability range. An interest in teaching media will be useful but not essential.

**Juliet Cooke**  
**Head of English**  
**January 2017**