

Thank you for your interest in joining the English team at Monmouth Comprehensive School. The role for which you are applying is an exciting opportunity to join a passionate team of dynamic teachers who are committed not only to the promotion of competence in literacy, but to instil in our young people a love of reading, writing, speaking and interacting.

English at Monmouth Comprehensive School is more than the sum of its parts. Our ethos as a Faculty very much centres on the philosophy that it is not only what you teach but how you teach it that really matters. This means nothing is off limits, which allows us to expand students' horizons and introduce them to new and exciting concepts. For instance, our Year 7 curriculum includes an introduction to the history of the English language, including important milestones in the evolution of our language: Beowulf, Chaucer and Caxton's printing press.

When we introduce students to concepts and genre, such as dystopian fiction, we do not just look at the hallmarks of dystopian writing, but examine the context and commentary that lies behind the conceit of the story; we examine authorial motive and apply these principles to our own dystopian writing.

It is our belief that English makes a very real and unique contribution to young people's lives; the books we read together in our English lessons tend to stay with us down the years and we see this as an opportunity. We want our young people to read independently and for pleasure, and this is no easy feat in a world where teenagers at home can spend an average of seven hours on their phones each day. It is our duty to model good reading habits and show them how immersive reading can be.

The English Faculty prides itself on its results and the achievement of its students. In particular, we like to boast of our outcomes at KS5 as our results fall into ALPS grades 1 and 2, which makes us one of the top achieving centres in the country for GCE English language and GCE English literature. We are also proud of the fact that all of our students study both language and literature at GCSE and our results are excellent.

The introduction of the New Curriculum in Wales has given us a very welcome excuse to collaborate with our Welsh and International Language colleagues to create a Language, Literacy and Communication programme of learning for Years 7 and 8. We felt we needed a curriculum which addressed some of those literacy non-negotiables we need students to have as they transition from Year 6 and move through Key Stage Three. We now teach two lessons of discrete grammar lessons every fortnight together with I.L. and Welsh teachers – an exciting and unique feature of our Faculty and A.O.L.E. at Monmouth Comprehensive School.

We also have a raft of extra-curricular clubs which are designed to enhance the cultural capital of English at MCS. These clubs include reading groups (covering Carnegie shadowing), a creative writing club called Muse, and a speaking and debating group. We are always looking to expand our programme of after-school clubs, and welcome candidates who are keen to contribute to the extracurricular life of the school.

We are very fortunate in our twenty-first century school environment, as the English Faculty boasts a suite of ten classrooms, a large hub space, a presentation staircase and a number of small breakout rooms, which allow us a degree of flexibility in designing learning experiences we would never have thought possible five years ago. The range of spaces mean we can move from traditional classroom learning to dynamic group work in the hub, to presentations in the breakout spaces and lectures on the presentation staircase. Anything is possible now.