



Wheatley Park School

The English Faculty

The English Faculty is based in the impressive John Milton Centre, which it shares with the Media Studies team. The English team consists of ten members of teaching staff who work closely with the Literacy Hub team who are based in the same building. Teaching rooms are equipped with a digital projector, three whiteboards and trapezoidal tables, meaning the space is extremely flexible. There is also an open plan performance/lobby area with a mezzanine and all students have their own personal chromebook for use in lessons.. The English team is hard-working and innovative and they work together to develop their practice. Sharing good practice is at the heart of what the English department values. Flightpath assessment is embedded in the KS3 schemes of work and formative assessment strategies are used throughout their teaching. The carefully planned schemes of work are structured around learning objectives and assessment outcomes and they continue to be developed by the team. There is a large social team room and a faculty working space.



Key Stages 3 and 4

Students are taught in their tutor groups in Year 7. In Years 8-11, students are taught in a quasi-mixed and streamed set up. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is in line with the new National Curriculum, with an emphasis on challenge from the start of Year 7 and on target-led and formative assessment throughout. The curriculum has also been designed to teach students the skills needed for the GCSE course and prepare students for the challenges ahead.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum follows the Edexcel specification and detailed curriculum mapping, schemes of work and student data tracking procedures are in place. In 2017 78% of students secured a grade 4 or above in English Language or English Literature. All students are double entered for Language and Literature. We have made significant progress at narrowing the gap for disadvantaged students with 74% achieving a grade 4 or above in 2017.



Key Stage 5

At A-Level, two courses are offered: English Literature and English Language and Literature both following the AQA B syllabus, which offers a broader specification to students wishing to continue elements of both their GCSE courses in the Sixth Form. Both courses are popular at AS and A2 level and we have a consistent record of excellent outcomes in terms of both attainment and progress.

Beyond the Classroom

The English department runs theatre trips as well as having visits from authors and guest speakers. Students have the opportunity to take part in Talk the Talk, a creative writing workshop and a spoken word workshop. The department also run a debating group.

Literacy

There has been a strong whole school focus on Literacy over the last three years.. The WPS onion is used to encourage self and peer marking in literacy. In the John Milton Centre the Literacy hub led run interventions to improve reading, spelling, writing and communication, both 1-1 and in small groups.

The school has a well equipped library run by an experienced librarian who works continuously with the English team to develop the quality of the resources on offer to students.

The Team

The Head of Faculty is supported by other team leaders (TLR holders).

The English team are a genuinely friendly and committed team. They are enthusiastic about their work and set high standards in terms of the quality of planning and feedback provided for our students. They offer excellent support to teachers joining the team and work together to achieve goals. They regularly host interns, student teachers and other visitors wishing to see the work of an English Faculty. The well resourced Literacy hub that provides effective interventions to support students who join us with low levels of literacy and innovative approaches to improving literacy are being developed, both within English and across the school.

Please contact Tim Rattigan (Deputy Headteacher) at trattigan@wheatleypark.org if you would like any further information. We welcome visits from any prospective applicants.