



Gravesend Grammar School

English Department

Staff:

The Department has eight specialists, as well as other teachers, teaching across KS3-5. Teachers within the Department also have responsibilities in Drama and Psychology. There are established links with the CREX, Drama and IT departments. The English Department plays a key role in delivering the school wide Communication for Meaning literacy initiative, the Accelerated Reading programme and is a lead department in developing and delivering new assessment initiatives across the school. We are a committed team with a love of our subject and a supportive, collegiate atmosphere in which all staff are valued.

Results:

The School's English results are well above the national average and we have been particularly proud of impressive recent A-Level and GCSE results and their value-added data. The last three years have seen a 98+% pass rate at GCSE and a continued upwards progression towards 40-50% 7-9 grades in Language and 50%+ in Literature despite a depressed national trend.

Resources:

We have a large range of texts at all Key Stages and learning is supported through DVD/online resources, interactive white boards and digital projectors, digital cameras and recorders and drama space. English teaching rooms are suited together. Year 7 lessons take place in our Library, which allows students to engage with the Accelerated Reader Programme throughout Key Stage 3. There is also a Department Office which is used for both planning and meetings. Staff have their own workspaces either in the Department Office or in the study area of the Staff Room.

KS3:

In years 7-9 students follow a diverse range of units that cover poetry, prose, the media, drama, non-fiction and autobiography. A key focus at Key Stage 3 is on improving levels of literacy and there is a cohesive wide-reading programme in place that utilises the school library. Students who are less able in English are supported by specific Literacy support staff. There is also tailored support for students with English as an additional language. In year 9, we focus on developing those skills our students require for GCSE. This includes complex competencies such as interpersonal skills, self-correction, reflection and group centered learning.

GCSE:

Students follow the AQA syllabus. Texts studied include *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Macbeth*, *Lord of the Flies* and a range of non-fiction texts focused on the Language exam.

Students take part in interactive workshops and performances based on texts that are studied. They also have the opportunity to attend available theatrical and film presentations of the set texts.

A-Level:

English Literature maintains its popularity in the school; there are two classes at each year level. Students follow the Edexcel syllabus. After an induction unit they study a variety of texts including *Othello*, *Faustus*, *Hard Times* and *Atonement*, as well as a Modern Poetry and a Romantic Poetry unit. Essay writing is the key skill at this level but room is made for other creative student tasks and responses. The coursework module also requires students to study self-selected texts that link to a central theme or focus. The Department has seen many students go on to read English at the country's top universities. We organise excursions to see performances and also to attend lecture seminars on exam texts.

ICT:

The Department has developed its schemes of work to incorporate a range of challenging and creative ICT use in our subject. The School's ICT facilities are excellent and ICT labs are readily available. All staff are provided with laptop computers. All English rooms have an interactive whiteboard and a projector in them.

Professional Development:

The Department follows school procedure and ensures that staff are both properly developed through Appraisal, INSET and external courses, as well as encouraged to be reflective practitioners. Whole-staff CPD activities are timetabled on Friday afternoons. There is scope for someone to develop a particular specialist interest if they desire within the department.

The Future:

We believe that the study of English and Literature should provide our students with both an independence of mind, and the essential communication skills necessary in their future lives. In the future, we see ourselves taking the department and the students forward, both in terms of attainment and results, extra-curricular activities, innovation and challenge, and also in developing those softer skills within our students that the study of English and Literature allows us to explore.

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