**TEACHER OF ENGLISH**

**The Department**

As a department we are committed to high standards of creativity and integrity. We seek to develop these characteristics through dealing with students, colleagues and leaders with trust, openness and honesty. These, we believe, are values which enable learning for all. We care about our students and about the integrity of the work that we set for them. We seek positive and supportive relations with all staff in Sir William Ramsay and we seek development as teachers through our own learning, research and relationships and skills. Operating as a team, we share good practice and ideas, meet regularly, and continually standardise assessment work across the key stages.

We are actively committed to the equality of all students in our care regardless of race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. As such, we explore a wide range of literature from all corners of the world in order to broaden the minds and increase understanding of the world we live in.

A love of reading is something we strive for across the school and the English department are committed to ensuring students have a diverse plethora of literature and non-fiction texts to continue their love of reading from earlier key stages.

**The Curriculum**

KS3

With the demands of 9-1, we ensure that all the skills required are addressed and built upon during KS3. Developing pupils’ communication skills, the essential reading, writing, speaking and listening, we encourage their creativity and exploration of the subject. All students are given the best opportunities to reach their potential. Students follow the reading programme Accelerated Reader during their library lessons as well as group reading session to develop discussion and oracy.

KS4

Current Year 11 students take both English Language and English Literature GCSE with Edexcel. This English Language GCSE has two components: Fiction and Imaginative Writing and Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing. The first requires pupils to read a range of prose fiction, particularly 19th century fiction, and then use this reading to stimulate and develop their own writing. It is worth 40% of the final GCSE. Paper Two requires pupils to study a range of 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts. They will develop their ability to analyse the writing of others as well as producing non-fiction texts of their own. This component is worth 60% of the final GCSE. There is also a Speaking and Listening Endorsement.

With a change in specification, Year 10 are currently studying English Language and English Literature GCSE with AQA. This exam board requires students to sit four GCSE papers, two language and two literature, and also complete a Speaking and Listening Endorsement.

All Key Stage 4 students study the following literature texts; Macbeth by William Shakespeare, An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley and A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

KS5

We have a thriving English Literature A Level course taken with AQA, which covers a wide range of poetry, prose and Shakespeare in the ‘Aspects of Tragedy’ paper. Students are encouraged to discuss and debate perspectives in their lively A Level classes. Our Sixth Form offers and individualised approach to students, meaning in English students have the benefit of smaller class sizes, two dedicated members of staff and regular opportunities for personalised feedback and support.

**Our Facilities and Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

Each of our full-time members of the department have their own rooms fully equipped with whiteboards. We have a team room for meetings and storage for our extensive resources. All students in KS3 have regular lessons in our well stocked library. We are keen to take students on visits to the cinema and theatre when appropriate: we also invite theatre and performance groups to school, as well as having a visiting author at least once a year. Students in Key Stage 3 are encouraged to take part in our highly popular creative writing workshops which run twice a week.

**Literacy**

We run a variety of schemes to promote and improve literacy across the school organised by a Literacy Coordinator who is part of the Department.