



## The English Faculty

### Our Team

The English Faculty at The Radclyffe School is an outstanding, skilled and supportive team with a strong shared vision. We understand the critical importance of English in terms of improving life chances and this is reflected in our motto: 'Developing Skills for Life'. Our aim is to continue being outstanding practitioners, so we can empower our students to achieve their very best. We strive for personal excellence in all and are constantly seeking ways to refine and develop our practice, both as individuals and as a team. The Faculty consists of 14 specialist English teachers. In addition to the Head of Faculty, six members of staff hold TLRs and one member of the team is an Advanced Skills Teacher.

### Groupings

In accordance with school policy, students at KS3 are taught in sets according to ability. Each year group is divided into 2 bands and these are divided into 5 sets each. We operate a three year Key Stage 4. In years 9, 10 and 11, students are taught in smaller sets within the Higher, Intermediate and Foundation option routes. Our specialist TAs provide targeted in-class support and withdrawal for key groups of students. In addition to this, English teachers also withdraw small groups of students for targeted interventions through the school's successful *Tutoring for Excellence* programme.

### Curriculum Provision

In years 7-8 students have 7 sixty-minute periods per fortnight (including dedicated Library and Grammar lessons), and in years 9, 10 & 11 they have 8 or 9 sixty-minute periods. Lessons at KS4 are blocked in half-year bands – enabling flexible movement between groups as appropriate.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING:

### Key Stage 3 – Y7&8

The Faculty follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study laid down for Key Stage 3. Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing skills, are taught in integrated units. Our KS3 Schemes of Work were recently revised in the light of the new English/Language & Literature GCSEs with the objective of ensuring that the building blocks for GCSE success are firmly embedded at KS3. The new curriculum offers students the opportunity to study Literature from a wide range of time periods and genres. The effectiveness of the curriculum is regularly reviewed and we are currently focussed on developing independent learners and challenging our G&T students. Reading is also a key focus and all students participate in the *Accelerated Reader* scheme. Weaker readers in Y7 & 8 are given extra support through the *Fresh Start*



Phonics programme. These groups have 3 extra English lessons per fortnight to boost their Literacy skills.

## **Key Stage 4 – Y9-11**

From September 2015 we adopted the AQA specifications for both English Language and Literature. All students have access to exam courses in English regardless of their ability, so we also offer Functional skills qualifications for those students who struggle with the demands of the GCSE route. Media Studies GCSE is offered as an option choice and is popular with students.

## **Results**

Our results at KS4 are very strong and contribute to excellent outcomes for our students across the curriculum. Sustaining this level of attainment is a key priority area for Faculty development and we are working towards challenging targets in relation to Progress 8 and Attainment 8. The use of data and tracking systems to target interventions is a key element of our strategy and a particular area of focus is raising achievement of our WBRI students. We are also targeting performance at grade 7-9.

## **Intervention and Support**

Whilst it is the responsibility of the individual English teacher to ensure that all students in a class receive their entitlement in English, the Faculty does have close working relationships with the Learning Support Faculty. As outlined earlier, the Faculty TAs are also timetabled to support specific classes either in-class or by small group withdrawal and we also run a Tutoring for Excellence programme. We also work closely with other agencies/faculties to develop expertise and produce materials targeting specific groups e.g. Literacy skills for SEN learners.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is an integral part of the learning and teaching process and all lessons incorporate regular opportunities for peer and self-assessment. At KS3 assessment and recording procedures ensure students' progress is closely monitored using our KS3 tracker. Standardization procedures are well established at KS4 and assessment of students' progress towards targets is monitored through a traffic light system at whole school and Faculty level.

## **ICT**

Information Technology is an essential tool in our development of students' language and communication skills and is used across the Key Stages. Each teaching room is equipped with a digital projector and interactive SMART board with integrated speakers. In addition there are three dedicated ICT rooms within the English faculty and Media



Studies classes are timetabled in these. We also have class sets of Kindles and iPads which can be booked out for classroom use.

## Resources / Rooms

The Faculty has a suite of twelve very well-equipped 'state of the art' classrooms. One member of the Faculty is responsible for liaising with the VTLE developers to support the production of interactive resources for English and we have our own *Steps for Reading and Writing* websites. SOLs are planned collaboratively and teaching resources are networked for easy access by both staff and students. We have digital video recording equipment, lighting and cameras. There is a staffed reprographics room for bulk copying and the English Faculty also has 5 printers, 2 of which are colour. The well-stocked library and adjacent computer suite provides an additional teaching resource which is currently used for library lessons and the *Accelerated Reader* programme. All members of staff also have a high specification laptop computer for planning, preparation and lesson delivery. In addition to the main staffroom the English Faculty has its own dedicated PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) room for staff use during non-contact time.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer regular theatre visits (to Stratford, the West End and the Lowry) and dinnertime activities include Book Club & Creative Writing Club. Students participate in a range of workshops run by professional writers throughout the year. English Staff also run revision and booster classes for KS4 students. Over recent years we have been involved in the National Film Project and are regular contributors to the BBC School News programme. Last year we participated in *Readathon* and celebrated *National Poetry Day*. We have a team of English Faculty prefects who work to promote reading & literacy across the school. KS4 students have also taken on the role of Reading Leaders tutoring weaker readers in Y7 and we have recently implemented a successful Peer to Peer Tutoring scheme in collaboration with Maths – the ATEAM.