

# Brookfield Community School



REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST  
Exsisto Optimus



## ENGLISH AT BROOKFIELD

The English Department at Brookfield School is a hard-working and successful team, which is frequently at the forefront of developments in education. We are proud of our achievements, which we feel are a direct result of strong teamwork, sharing good practice and a commitment to providing the best opportunities for our students' success. As a school with a comprehensive intake, we work hard to meet the needs of all individuals who attend the school and aim to ensure that all make good or outstanding progress.

Based on the middle floor of the main school building, we have enabled the creation of a clear identity and ethos. Colleagues consistently share resources and teaching and learning strategies and there is a positive and supportive level of professional discourse. We are also conveniently situated on the same floor as large, well-stocked, Senior and Junior libraries. The Department is well resourced with a wide range of texts and course books allowing teachers plenty of choice in choosing reading material. We have access to laptop trolleys and all English rooms are equipped with Interactive whiteboards and internet access.

### Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, groups are set according to ability. All groups follow a clear and comprehensive curriculum structure. Students follow a range of interesting programmes of study, which are designed to engage and enthuse learners, whilst also addressing all of the Literature & Language assessment objectives. To this extent, KS3 fully prepares students for their GCSE courses. The set programmes of study ensure that students follow a varied programme of speaking, listening, reading and writing and that all students complete common assessment tasks. Schemes of work are in place for all programmes of study and are routinely adapted to ensure they meet the needs of our learners.

### Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, groups are also set according to ability. We follow the AQA GCSE courses and almost all students complete GCSEs in both English Language and English Literature. As with Key Stage 3, all groups follow a clear curriculum structure, designed to interleave the GCSE English Language & English Literature courses over the two years. Schemes of work are in place for all aspects of the GCSE courses and these are stored electronically in a shared area; to take into account the needs of our students, resources are updated routinely. All groups study the same GCSE Literature texts: 'Macbeth', 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls', Power & Conflict poetry.

## **Key Stage 5**

At Key Stage 5 we teach AQA English Language and AQA English Literature Specification B. There is a non-examined assessment component in both courses, increasing the opportunities for shaping the course content to suit the needs of the students. External examinations take place in June, at the end of Y13. English Language and Literature are both extremely popular with a number of groups in Years 12 and 13. All KS5 classes are taught by pairs of teachers for five hours per week. There are prescribed curriculum structures for both courses that all staff broadly follow. However, the precise division of responsibilities is negotiable and may take into account particular teaching strengths or preferences.

I am proud to lead a dedicated and supportive department that is passionate about teaching English and one that is building on its successful past to forge an even more successful future. It is an exciting time to join the department as we look to build on our teaching and learning with new strategies informed by educational research. This is a vibrant department which would provide an excellent opportunity for a colleague to either begin or build upon their career and any colleague joining us would be supported in finding appropriate professional development opportunities to support their future progression. I look forward to welcoming a new colleague who has the vision, innovation and drive to be a part of continuing the success of the department.

In the next two years the department considers its main priorities to be:

- Improving the progress that boys make in English Language & English Literature.
- Closing the gap between PP and non-PP students in terms of the progress made.
- Improving the accuracy of grade projections.
- Ensuring that all students are 'exam ready'.
- Improving the outcomes for high ability students in English Literature.
- Making sure that lessons are suitably differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.

Darren Frost

Head of English – June 2019