

Hazelwick School

Information on the English Department

The English Department is a cohesive, friendly and supportive environment in which to work. The department has taken into account recent changes at GCSE level in order to develop teaching programmes which best prepare students at all levels for success. The programmes of study promote high levels of literacy and encourage independence and enthusiasm amongst students, over the 5-year period. Our vision is to create a safe learning environment in which students are supported and stretched to meet their maximum potential.

In Lower School (years 7/8) students follow reformed programmes of study which reflect new expectations at GCSE level. These reforms aim to provide Hazelwick students with a varied and rich curriculum that is not only challenging, but also builds on the key skills and assessment objectives that are essential to the new GCSE specifications. Each year group completes an assessment half termly, alternating between reading and writing skills. Through the exploration of poetry, novels and non-fiction writing, a range of themes are considered which allow students to produce both analytical and creative pieces.

The department has the benefit of a well-resourced library; this not only enables students to follow a highly successful Accelerated Reader scheme, but is also host to a wealth of extra-curricular activities within the department, such as gifted and talented workshops and The Book Awards.

Year 9 complete a transition year for GCSE where schemes of work are more heavily focussed around GCSE style assessments. These are conducted on a range of components for both language and literature, this is inclusive of covering selected seen anthology poems.

Years 10 and 11 study the reformed English GCSE (9-1) which started in September 2015, with which we had great success in the summer exams (in English students achieved +0.51 for progress 8, significantly higher than the national average). All students have the opportunity to study the Edexcel English Language and English Literature course, leading to separate qualifications at GCSE. Units are studied in half term blocks concluding with an assessment for progress. Literature texts are chosen with the class in mind, providing different teaching options for staff. English language work is focussed around Pearson Active teach resources alongside others which we have developed with neighbouring schools and outside bodies, such as PiXL. As a department we are constantly reflecting and adapting the programme of study due to the nature of the newly implemented GCSE course.

In the Sixth Form we offer English Literature A-Level with the hope of expanding this in the future. The AS/A Level English Literature (AQA specification A) is a popular and successful course, which offers teachers the opportunity to teach drama, poetry and prose across different periods, with a unifying focus on 'Love through the Ages' in Year 12, followed by 'World War One and its aftermath' in Year 13. The breadth of material covered offers teachers the freedom to pursue their own specialist interests and areas of expertise in addition to developing students' enthusiasm. Media Studies is also successfully taught by members of the department at GCSE, AS and A2 level.

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