



The Redhill Academy

ENGLISH FACULTY

Thank you for your interest in Redhill. I hope this document will give you an insight into what we are about. The successful candidate will join an established faculty with a vast amount of collective skill and experience. We enjoy very good results at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level. This reflects the effort and talent of the faculty as a whole.

English at Key Stage 3

For the English Faculty, Key Stage 3 is where we begin to 'shape' our students. This is the point at which good practice is established and the foundation for future success is laid down. We see English as a coherent progression through the various stages, with our prime concerns at this point being to encourage our students to enjoy the subject, to gain confidence in their developing skills and to prepare them for the work to come at Key Stage 4 and beyond.

In Years 7 and 8, students are set according to ability. In both years we work closely with the Learning Support Department, which provides additional support for our students with special educational needs. These students are taught in smaller groups and follow the curriculum used within mainstream English classes as far as possible.

Developing our students' writing is a major aspect of our work and one which is of great importance to the Sample Units. Our teaching is very much skill based and so much of the lessons objectives are based upon specific reading and writing Assessment Focuses. Our use of clear AFs allows the department to closely track the different forms of progress our students make and support further achievements.

We are well supported at Redhill by the Resource Centre Manager with whom the faculty works closely. We have received extra funding which has allowed us to increase the range of books we can offer to our students as a faculty, providing us with many new and exciting opportunities for teaching. All Year 7 students are on the accelerated reader programme and visit the learning resource centre at least once a week.

Drama and oral work are important areas for us too, and we receive much help from our Drama Department. They support our curriculum in English at Key Stage 3 providing our students with rich and varied learning experiences within a coherent structure.

The use of ICT is already well-established within the faculty and there are now data projectors in all of our English classrooms. Students also have access to laptops in their classrooms and are used extensively to aid all teaching of English. Our department also make active use of the school's Virtual Learning Environment to encourage independent learning. Teacher contributions to the VLE ensure students can access homework tasks and extra resources to support their individual progress outside of lessons.





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English at Key Stage 4

Students of English at Redhill follow the AQA syllabus. All GCSE students follow a course of English and English Literature. iGCSE, Entry Level and Functional Skills qualifications are also available to students who require them.

We have developed a long term plan which ensures that Language Controlled Assessments are completed by the end of Year 10, allowing us to use year 11 to suit the needs of our students; ensuring that this final KS4 year can either be used to focus more on the Literature GCSE or the requirements for progression within the Language GCSE. Year 9 is now used as a GCSE transition year in which GCSE grades are used throughout. Year 9 students are taught with a great focus on consolidating their literacy skills as they begin their GCSE course.

English at Key Stage 5

The faculty offers AS/A2 English Literature (OCR), English Language (AQA B) and Media (AQA). We aim to give new members of staff the chance to teach AS/A2 within their first or second year with us.

In addition, we offer GCSE resit to students that are continuing their studies at Redhill sixth form.

Professional Development

We regard ourselves as a friendly, supportive and forward thinking faculty that consistently seeks to 'move people on', no matter where they are in their careers. Additionally, we have a close relationship with students who use our faculty for their training. The English Faculty at Redhill is a link faculty for the School Direct and PGCE English course at the Nottingham Trent University.

We are committed to reflective practices that seek to bring the best out of all of us.

Amy Gascoigne

Faculty Leader for English
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