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**English Department**

***English Department Mission statement:***

*Through insightful and inspirational study of a broad range of challenging non-fiction and literature texts, the English Department at Hall Cross Academy will foster a love of the English language as a tool through which ideas and imagination can be expressed with beauty and power.*

English at Hall Cross Academy is in the enviable position of having neither its curriculum nor style of delivery prescribed by a Multi Academy Trust. The autonomy afforded by this situation facilitates a healthy, varied, challenging diet for our students as well as the freedom for, and expectation that, teachers tailor their lessons specifically for the students in their classes. Resources are readily shared and the supportive team are always ready to offer ideas and advice on how to move forward with a scheme of work. In such a department, we are looking to appoint enthusiastic, articulate communicators who are knowledgeable and passionate about the subject. Our objective is that students schooled at Hall Cross gain an education in English as well as a qualification.

Hall Cross is an 11-18, split site, mixed comprehensive serving the Hyde Park, Bessacarr and Cantley areas of Doncaster. One campus is located in Bessacarr and caters for students at Key Stage 3 and the other campus is located in the town centre and caters for Key Stage 4 and 5 students. We provide a friendly, stimulating environment for approximately 2000 students across the two sites; the large sixth form currently has over 500 students.

English is taught in two suites of rooms, one on each of the school’s two sites. The department at present comprises 15 specialist teachers.

The Upper campus has eleven dedicated English rooms and there is also a suite of laptops and iPads available for use in the classroom. The English block was newly built in 1997, creating pleasant working spaces in close proximity, thus allowing co-operative teamwork and good communication. These qualities are highly valued by the department and make a significant contribution to the smooth running of all classes.

All students in Years 10-11 currently follow the Eduqas courses in GCSE English and English Literature though we will be delivering the AQA specification for both Language and Literature GCSE from September 2019. English Language and English Literature (AQA specifications) are both popular choices at A level.Experienced sixth form teachers work extremely hard to provide high quality teaching leading to excellent results.

while we offer the AQA course in Advanced level English Language and English Literature.

SEND support is very good, with NTAs and specialists available for most lessons when required. There are Intervention teachers available for most Key Stage 4 lessons for students who need individual help.

English colleagues work very much as a team, sharing ideas, expertise and resources and co-operating to help with classroom management as required. Everyone is encouraged to develop and extend their expertise and everyone shares in teaching the full ability range. Most staff teach on both sites; a few just on one. Staff preferences are taken into consideration as much as is possible within the constraints of the timetable.

Extra-curricular activities are encouraged and frequently provided. We currently run revision clubs, field trips and many theatre or lecture visits. Displays of student work recognising student achievement and providing attractive work places are also strongly encouraged.

Overall, we are successful, hard-working and enthusiastic, setting and meeting very high standards for our own teaching and our students’ learning.

We look forward to receiving your application.