

English at WHGS

The English department currently comprises 7 full time members of staff and 3 part time.

Time

During KS3 each teaching group is allocated 7, 1 hour periods of English per two week cycle as a minimum. Different ability bands are allotted more time.

During years 10 and 11 there are 8, 1 hour periods of English per two week cycle.

In the Sixth Form students following English Literature and English Language courses are allocated as follows:-

10 periods per two week cycle for Year 12

10 periods per two week cycle for Year 13

Courses

At Key Stage 3, the department follows schemes of work that follow a unitary approach lasting 6 weeks. This represents mid and long term planning. Teachers are encouraged to develop their own areas of interests within the unit title, as long as key assessment objectives are met.

Pupils in Years 10-11 currently prepare for the Edexcel English 9-1 GCSE in both Language and Literature

In the Years 12 and 13 students currently follow:

AQA Literature Specification B

AQA Language Specification

Staffing and Setting

All teachers teach across the ability and age range.

Setting takes place within the bands in Year 7,8 and sets in Year 9

At Key Stage 3, English classes are normally taught as a whole group. In Years 7, 8 and 9 individual pupils with a defined special educational need will be offered support through a combination of withdrawal from the main stream classroom and a programme of help from classroom assistants

At the end of Year 9 the sets are decided for GCSE. These sets are chosen on the. Current policy is for three mixed higher ability top sets of approximately 28, then 4 more sets of decreasing ability levels and fewer numbers. The intention is to provide each pupil with the most appropriate level of teacher time for his or her ability level. The pupils remain with the same teacher for the duration of their GCSE course in normal circumstances.

At A Level and each set is normally taught by 2 teachers, with a 5 period split across the two-week cycle.

Resources

The department is located in the Zochonis Centre and virtually all lessons take place in specialist rooms. All classrooms are equipped with Promethean Interactive Whiteboards. There is an extensive and well maintained book stock.

An additional bonus is a common room shared with Modern Languages, with work stations, shelving and filing cabinet space and the use of ICT.

Department Activities

We are very keen to broaden the cultural horizons of our pupils and organise regular theatre trips both locally (Royal Exchange, Library, Contact theatres) and nationally (Stratford and London), in conjunction with the Drama department.

We also hold an annual Literary Festival to encourage reading, including author visits.

The relationship with the school library is an essential ingredient of the department's daily activities. Pupils have a library lesson in the library to encourage reading and a variety of activities takes place in conjunction with the librarian.

Conclusion

The department is lively, happy and forward-looking. At the last inspection it was highly praised and seen as leading the way in terms of targeting and quality assurance. It continues to strive to innovate, stimulate and always to try and meet the demands of the intake.

Teaching English at William Hulme's is stimulating, challenging and enjoyable with colleagues who are genuinely interested in their subject and care about their students.

Head of Faculty: Mr J R Wise

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