



CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

The English Department

At Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

Staff Guide



The English Department

Our Mission Statement

The English Department will equip students with the ability to write accurately, fluently and at length both for pleasure and critically through our love of the subject and enthusiasm for teaching and learning.

Students will develop a love for reading; actively drawing on new vocabulary and sentence constructions and using these consciously in their own writing to achieve deliberate effects.

Students will enter their terminal exams with confidence, equipped with strategies to overcome their weaknesses and excel in their strengths.

Standards

Pupil achievement and progress in English is higher than average at both KS3 and KS4. The school's Ofsted Inspection Report of June 2014 stated: *'Standards in English are well above average.'* The inspectors judged that *'Reading and writing are promoted well.'*

In June 2017 88% of students entered (170) achieved a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English (Combined Measure) and 74% of those entered (170) achieved a Grade 5 or above or above in GCSE English (Combined). In June 2018 86% of students entered achieved a Grade 4 or above in the combined measure. 68% achieved a Grade 5 or above.

The percentage of students achieving Grade 4 or above in English Language and Literature is higher than the national average. The percentage of students achieving a Grade 5 or above in both Language and Literature is significantly higher than nationally. Our P8 score was 0.5, significantly higher than nationally.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have eight one hour lessons in a two week cycle. They are all taught English Language and English Literature in ability sets. The schemes of work incorporate the approaches and the requirements of the new AQA Language (8700) and Literature(8702) Programme of Study. Every pupil is formally assessed each half term in the key areas of Reading, Writing and Spoken Language. Progress is closely monitored via a centralised, departmental Database and via the whole school System. The team has worked hard to develop a range of new and exciting schemes of work at KS3, including challenging units on The Gothic, Magic and Adventure, Extraordinary Lives, Detectives, Dickensian Characters, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and a Year 9 scheme on Journeys. Students progress to KS4 in the Spring term of Year 9.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students are taught in ability sets. These are composed according to proven ability demonstrated throughout the Key Stage 3 course, alongside KS2 data and Reading Ages. Students have eight one hour lessons in a two week cycle. Most follow both English and English Literature GCSE courses. These are assessed by a terminal examination.

Students in Year 9 begin preparing for the challenges of the GCSE English Literature course, a *Romeo and Juliet* shortened scheme, moving to a study of the parent and child poems from the AQA *Love and Relationships* cluster. By Year 10, students will be studying for the new linear GCSE courses, with half

termly assessments designed to prepare them for the end of course exams.

Texts at KS4 include: *Macbeth*, Strange Case of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *An Inspector Calls* and the *Love and Relationship* poetry cluster.

At regular intervals, students are set a PINS marked piece of work this includes them looking at their teachers' marking in detail, setting themselves targets and acting upon advice given through a 'Next Steps' approach. This is an integral part of their learning that allows them to take responsibility for their own progress, understanding where their strengths are and what they must do next to continue to improve.

Extra Curricular

School Productions

Recent whole school productions, with the Music Department, include *Grease*, *Oliver!* *Aladdin* and *Annie*.

Theatre and Cinema Trips

The department takes full advantage of the wide array of productions on offer at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Bradford's Alhambra Theatre, as well as the National Theatre Live programme in local cinemas.

Visiting Authors and Theatre Companies

Many authors and poets, including Cathy Cassidy, Alan Gibbons, Martyn Bedford and Andy Craven-Griffiths, have visited the school to address large groups of pupils and lead workshops with selected pupils. The Young Shakespeare Company also visit to workshop *Romeo and Juliet* with Year 9 each year. This year, they will also work with Year 10 for the first time, preparing them for the study of *Macbeth* at GCSE.

Performing Shakespeare

Students in KS3 participate in the Performing Shakespeare competition with the English

Speaking Union. This year, six groups of students were selected to perform in the regional final.

Reading Groups

KS3 and KS4 reading groups meet in the library on a fortnightly basis to discuss contemporary and classic texts, including Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* and many more. The groups also participate in the Leeds Book Awards and Carnegie Award Shadowing Programme. The groups attend the Leeds Book Awards ceremony in May each year.

Debating Society

The department leads a thriving KS4 Debating Society who have enjoyed success in the English Speaking Union's Mace and the Durham Schools competition.

Philosophy Forum

The English Department also facilitates the Philosophy Forum which meets each week at lunchtime to discuss current philosophical (and sometimes scientific) theories. Pupils are encouraged to come up with their own views and argue for or against those of others. They discuss almost anything life, the universe and everything. Recent topics include:

- The nature of morality
- Absurdity and meaning
- What makes good art?
- Why do we sleep?
- Do our dreams have any meaning?
- Could a robot ever be conscious?

Accommodation and Facilities

The English Department is housed in a suite of eight teaching rooms which are all equipped with interactive whiteboards. We have two sets of portable classroom laptops and have access to the school's suites of networked computers. Classes in KS3 also have a session in the school library once a fortnight and the library is available for intervention groups in KS4.

Staffing in February 2019

A team of specialist teachers is committed to providing and developing English teaching of high quality. The Literacy Lead, Literacy Co-ordinator and Literacy Assistant play an integral role in the design and delivery of Literacy intervention and in-class support.

Departmental Structure

Miss H McMinn	Director of English and Literacy
Ms C Feasey	Assistant Curriculum Leader of English
Mr P Teggart	Teacher of English and Head of Upper School
Dr M Bradley	Teacher of English and PSHCE Co-ordinator
Miss P Gallagher	Teacher of English and Literacy Lead
Mr D Easter	Teacher of English and Achievement Leader (Year 9)
Miss H Bell	Teacher of English
Miss L Blanc	Teacher of English
Miss S Deedigan	Teacher of English
Miss L Burns	Literacy Support Assistant with Library Responsibilities

