**The English Department**

We are an incredibly successful, lively and progressive department and work very much as a team. You will find us enthusiastic and supportive. The English Department currently consists of 4 full time and 1 part time members of staff.

The pace is demanding throughout the curriculum but particularly at A Level. We currently run three A Level courses: our perennially popular English Literature (Edexcel) and English Language (AQA) and Media Studies (Eduqas). The girls are academic, committed and determined to achieve the highest standards – their A Level results speak for themselves. We teach sixth form largely through discussion and many of our lessons are seminar in style. We value and teach accurate and stylish communication.

At KS4 all students take AQA GCSE English Language and AQA English Literature. We firmly believe in mixed ability teaching and all groups, from Year 7 to Year 13, are mixed. Our GCSE results are superb and this is due to the enthusiasm we have for our subject, our subject knowledge and the warm relationships our department fosters with all of our students. The hard work and conscientious attitude of our GCSE students are typical of all our pupils from all years.

Years 7 – 9 follow the Department’s own syllabus within the framework of the National Curriculum. The syllabus and schemes of work are reviewed annually by the department and designed to match the pattern of assessment they will face at GCSE. We have recently rejuvenated the KS3 Curriculum, with a special focus on diversifying and de-colonising. This work continues and we are always open to new voices and new ideas. We do not start GCSE early in terms of texts taught but we absolutely do in terms of the skills required. The girls encounter a wide range of non-fiction and literature texts and are encouraged to develop confidence in all forms of writing and speaking. Literature lies at the core of the curriculum and the girls thrive on challenging and demanding texts.

We have special links with the Prep school and are seeking to strengthen these even further. Two English teachers run a Year 6 English session once a fortnight. We also reach out to other local primaries, including offering online Google Meet poetry and Book Club sessions for Year 5 and 6 children across the city.

**READING**

We promote reading passionately, believing it underpins all success. Our shadowing of the Carnegie Prize and the Southern Schools Book Award has engaged many of our younger students with books and given them exciting opportunities to share their love of reading and to meet many of the authors who have inspired this. Every set text comes with its own extension task list, full of books, online activities, competitions and books to develop our students. We use online reading logs – these are used by families and staff as well as students in all year groups. We have regular Drop Everything And Read time in school and have an annual raft of World Book Day events, including dressing up and author visits.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ENGLISH**

We offer a range of popular and well attended lunchtime clubs, including Anime and Manga, Creative Writing and Clinics for KS3 and KS4. We also oversee The Temple Times our school newspaper.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

We work together to share good practice and try new ideas. Members of our department are examiners and use that expertise to support GCSE teaching. We like to keep abreast of developments in teaching, using online forums, external and GDST CPD and a regular in-school Teach Meet. We have a supportive and informal ‘open door’ policy and try to squeeze in as much team-teaching and peer-peer observation as we can.

**English Department Results 2019**

**A Level English Literature**:

100% A\* - A

**A Level English Language** (no cohort in 2018 or 2019) results from 2017

100% A\*-B

 **GCSE English Language:**

100% grades 9-4; 64% grades 9-7

**GCSE English Literature:**

100% grades 9-4; 67% grades 9-7