



## THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department is aspirational and committed to bringing the best out of all our students. We are a strong team of 7 talented professionals that benefits from experience, enthusiasm and excellent relationships.

The English Department is housed on the first floor. We are based in easy reach of the library and ICT suites. There is a separate Drama Studio on the ground floor. All classrooms contain Promethean interactive whiteboards, projector, staff computer and a small number of computers for class use. Other equipment available includes CD players, access to a set of Microsoft surface tablets and access to a camcorder and digital cameras. There are two ICT suites, one of which is bookable and a well stocked, carefully managed library.

In each year group, students are taught 12 schemes of work around a particular theme/topic. Students complete work in an A4 book which contains classwork, drafts and assessed pieces. Students are taught in mixed ability groups at Key Stage 3.

At Key Stage 4, we follow the AQA syllabus for GCSE English Literature and Language. The key texts that we study for literature are: 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley. Students complete work in an A4 book and have a separate file containing assessments throughout year 10 and 11.

We believe in collaboration and the close proximity of classrooms to each other provides a good basis for developing our departmental identity further. We have regular meetings, giving us the opportunity to share ideas and resources and to plan ahead. English is taught in mixed-ability groups which are 'blocked' -meaning that teachers working at the same time and in the same location can explore all kinds of opportunities for collaborative work.

The children at this school are exceptional: they are creative, imaginative and ingenious as well as enthusiastic and responsive. We feel that we need to do as much as we can to tap into these qualities. We try to take a 360-degree view of children because we are interested in educating the whole child, for now and in the future.

We aim to celebrate the successes of our students. In order to achieve this, we aim to ensure that all students, irrespective of ability, are consistently challenged and feel they can be successful in achieving their personal best. We have a very strong learning Support Department with whom we work closely.

The English Department is committed to inspiring and motivating the individual. Drama is an important aspect in our work as it plays a crucial role in developing understanding and confidence and in encouraging self-expression. It is taught within English lessons. Our mixed-ability groupings mean that we have to challenge different students in different ways. Our planning frameworks are flexible enough to allow for personal initiative and our schemes of work detailed enough to support a dedicated, enthusiastic and proactive practitioner.