

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Information for Prospective Candidates

The English Department currently comprises 15 members of staff who have varying timetable commitments to the subject. We work very closely as an enthusiastic team to deliver the highest quality curriculum to all students and are dedicated to enabling each student to fulfil his or her potential. All teachers share in departmental planning and there is a high level of commitment from colleagues, which produces an excellent working atmosphere in this successful department.

At Key Stage 3, English classes are set according to ability and we teach to National Curriculum guidelines, following the recommendations of the revised Framework from Year 7. Work in English lessons here follows whole school and cross curricular themes as appropriate throughout the year. KS3 teacher assessments in 2012 indicated 89% of students gaining Level 5 or above, showing further progress in the raising of standards at this level.

At Key Stage 4 we follow WJEC specifications for English, English Language and English Literature, with entry being determined on a student's ability and potential. The English Department achieves good and improving results at GCSE level: in 2012, 60% of students entered for English / English Language gained Grades A

* - C, with 77% of students entered gaining Grades A* - C for English Literature. Classes are set within the department according to ability.

At AS and A2 we have thriving classes in both English Literature and English Language, following programmes of study for AQA Specification B in each case. Results are excellent in both areas, with pass rates in both English Language and English Literature being 100% for more than 10 years, with a significant majority of students achieving the highest grades at Grade C and above.

The English Department is proud to be housed within one block of our new school building which opened in September 2008. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive SMART Board, and each member of staff has a laptop. The department also has access to a suite of laptops available for classroom use, and the school's Learning Resource Centre offers excellent library and research facilities, where we enjoy the support of a full time librarian. Staff from the department regularly organise theatre visits, book weeks, workshops with authors and a range of other enhancement activities in order to foster a love of reading and literature, and to enhance our students' learning experience.

We have enthusiastic and forward thinking teachers who are willing to teach at KS3, KS4 and KS5. As a department we make sure that learning and teaching are at the heart of everything we do, and are always keen to share best practice and explore new techniques to engage our students. We pride ourselves on being a strong department which is always keen to improve.

Linda Marsden
Director of Literacy
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