

**February 2022**

## **ENGLISH**

The Forest School has a dynamic and progressive English Department staffed by an enthusiastic, experienced team. Our vision is for every student to succeed whilst also fostering a love of reading, writing and the study of a wide range of English literature texts. We are a co-educational school with a first intake of girls from September 2021. This is an exciting development which the English Department is keen to embrace.

As reflective practitioners we are constantly seeking to develop and improve our own teaching practice so that we ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. In essence, we want to be one of the best departments in the county and the country. To this end, we are continuously revisiting and revising our rich knowledge-based curriculum and seeking out new and improved modes and methods of delivering it. CPD and a commitment to staff development is the bedrock on which the English Department is formed. It is at the heart of our teaching and it enables us to be reflective practitioners, dedicated to delivering high quality lessons which expedite progress.

The students at Forest are entered for both English Language and English Literature GCSE, following the AQA specification. We run a 3 Year Key Stage 3 and a 2 year Key Stage 4 curriculum. Both Key Stages are taught in mixed-ability groups with a nurture group in Year 7 who join mainstream classes in Year 8. We believe that mixed ability classes boost standards and self-esteem among all students and supports our Growth Mindset ethos. We have eight specialist, recently refurbished classrooms. Staff teach in their own rooms which are each equipped with an interactive TV monitor. We also have a highly skilled library team with whom we work very closely to channel our pupils love of reading and develop their cultural capital.

One of our greatest strengths is our teamwork and cohesiveness. By keeping abreast of pedagogical developments, all English staff contribute to planning and resourcing lessons, units of work, CPD workshops, learning walks and the sharing of best practice. Our aims are to deliver high standards of teaching and learning, to track and monitor individual pupil progress and to promote the highest quality of reading, writing and speaking and listening across the curriculum, in order to enhance academic achievement and a love of literature.

English lessons at Forest introduce students to a wide range of exciting and culturally influential texts. In Year 7, they are introduced to Chaucer and study the art of rhetoric, and in Years 8 and 9 they study a vibrant selection of poetry, plays, novels and non-fiction texts. In Years 10 and 11, all students study a modern drama text, a pre 20<sup>th</sup> century novel, Macbeth and the AQA poetry anthology. Over the five year English curriculum, students learn how to compose, articulate and communicate their thoughts and ideas both in writing and orally. Lessons at Forest are characterised by high expectations, rich class discussion and debate, the careful development of writing skills and a relentless focus on the power of words and new vocabulary. Our lessons are designed to pique students' interest and develop their investigative, collaborative and exploratory skills.

We are looking for a candidate who demonstrates excellent subject and curriculum knowledge and who will proactively contribute to the on-going development of the department. You must be committed to the maxim that "Every lesson counts" and see each lesson as a progress journey in which a student should make maximum gains in a creative and stimulating environment.