

# English at Woodlands



The English Faculty at Allestree Woodlands School is currently led by a Faculty Director, a Deputy Director and an Assistant Director. The English team comprises ten English specialists, including a Literacy Co-ordinator.

Our department has a suite of eight rooms in the main school which are used to deliver lessons across Key Stages Three, Four and Five. At Key Stage Three, the faculty has taken a lead role in developing new curriculum frameworks to reflect extensive changes to our incoming students' Key Stage Two experience and the challenges posed by the GCSE and A Level courses. Feedback from our chosen exam board (AQA) has consistently praised our robust moderation process, imaginative task setting and the breadth of engaging and perceptive work we enable our students to produce. The faculty prides itself on taking a pro-active approach in continuously developing programmes of study for the GCSEs and A Levels.

At GCSE, we currently have eight groups in Years 10 and 11. All students are entered for English Language and Literature. In 2022, outcomes in Language saw 79% of students achieving at least a standard pass (Grade 4) with 58% of students achieving a Grade 5 or above. In Literature, 78% of students achieved at least a Grade 4, with 57% of students awarded a Grade 5 or above.

There is a high level of uptake of English at A level with every other student in the Sixth Form takes an English course. Currently, we have one English Language and one English Literature group in Years 12 and 13. In 2022, we achieved 100% pass rates in both Language and Literature. 100% of English Language students achieved A\* to C grades, leading to a value-added score of +0.56. In Literature, we achieved our highest ever proportion of A\*-A grades with 69% of students achieving the top two grades.

[www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk/subjects](http://www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk/subjects)



ALLESTREE  
WOODLANDS  
SCHOOL

Courage | Optimism | Regard | Endeavour



## Professional Development

At Woodlands we are fully committed to supporting all teachers in their professional learning. Our whole school CPD programme focuses largely on professional learning activities that aim to have a direct impact on our students' learning. Each week, we are all involved in Research Wednesday which focuses on the latest educational research through reading and discussion in subject teams. In addition to this, we have a termly professional learning cycle which involves educational input, development and review. This gives teachers the opportunity to problem solve and embed well informed strategies in the classroom.

## Supporting ECTs

We welcome all Early Careers Teachers (ECTs) to our school. If you are an ECT, either in your first or second year of the programme, we are committed to ensuring your training is high quality, regular and developmental. ECTs are assigned a dedicated, qualified mentor who will meet with you on a weekly basis and coach you to develop your teaching practice. In addition to this, all ECTs work through a 2 year training programme with Ambition Institute. Ambition use the very best and most recent educational research to deliver a programme around the core strands of the ECT programme – behaviour, instruction and subject development. All ECTs are provided with a reduced timetable over the 2 year programme to support their learning.

Furthermore, if you are an ECT applying for a part time post, we are able to support you in developing your teaching in the same way and committing to supporting all colleagues in their early careers. If you would like to find out more about Ambition Institute please go to their website for more details at: <https://www.ambition.org.uk/programmes/early-career-teachers/>

## Our CORE Values are:

### Courage

to be brave in the face of challenge

### Optimism

to look for solutions and see positives

### Regard

to care for and be kind to others and yourself

### Endeavour

to work hard and persevere to achieve one's full potential

## Be part of the Woodlands community

Go to the school's website at [www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk) for information about the school, or for daily updates you can follow us on Twitter @woodlands\_derby