



Huntcliff School – English Department

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Rationale

The overarching aim of the English Faculty at Huntcliff School is to enable every pupil to develop their ability to understand, use and adapt English to suit a wide range of purposes, forms and audiences.

There are two distinct but complementary purposes behind this one aim. Firstly, English contributes to the personal development (intellectual, emotional, moral and aesthetic) of the individual child because of the cognitive functions of both spoken and written language in exploratory learning and in making sense of experience, both real and imagined. Secondly, English as a subject, contributes to a child's preparation for the adult world: we all need to be able to communicate effectively and appropriately in the wide range of social and professional situations in which we might find ourselves.

Both aspects of language, the professional and the social, contribute to giving people an understanding of and a power over their lives. Language empowers!

Thus we aim to be a community of optimistic endeavour enabling every individual pupil to use and enjoy English in all its infinite variety and richness: to provide our pupils with roots to grow and wings to fly.

Syllabus

KS3

At Huntcliff School, we believe that the road to GCSE success starts at KS3. Therefore it is crucial that the curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to develop the skills they will need at KS4. With that in mind, pupils study a range of pre and post 1914 literature, comprising of poetry, prose and drama. Pupils also study Shakespearean drama throughout KS3.

All pupils at KS3 take part in a literacy lesson once a week. During these lessons, Pupils use the Accelerated Reader programme and complete written tasks designed to improve their sentence construction, punctuation and fluency. In addition to homework set in normal English lessons, pupils are required to read for twenty minutes per night as part of the Accelerated Reader programme.

English Language and English Literature GCSEs are both assessed entirely by a terminal exam at the end of KS4. In order to prepare KS3 pupils for this, progress will be assessed through regular (usually half termly) assessments. Pupils are taught how to respond critically to texts both seen and unseen, as well as developing the ability to suit their writing to a wide range of purposes, audiences and formats.

KS4

At Key Stage 4 we offer two GCSEs to all pupils, English Language and English Literature. As a department we feel that taking both GCSEs is essential for a rounded understanding and development of reading, writing and analytical skills.

The English Language exam consists of two papers (one fiction and one non-fiction) with a range of reading tasks and an extended writing piece. There are also two papers for English Literature, one covering modern prose and drama texts and one covering a Shakespeare play, anthology poetry and an unseen poetry task.

The Department

The staff within the faculty are all specialists and have a considerable range of teaching experience. There are also GCSE markers for English Language as well as a dedicated lead for both KS3 and KS4. Teaching Assistants regularly assist with classes as well as acting as readers and scribes for pupils as necessary. We are an ambitious, department who are constancy striving to improve outcomes for our pupils through high expectations, engaging lessons and supportive challenge.

Teaching Area

The teaching area is a dedicated building that is light and airy. It consists of five classrooms, an ICT suite and an office. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard.