

THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM



English Department Information for Applicants

JANUARY 2026

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department consists of thirteen teachers, several of whom are non-specialists, part-time or hold positions of responsibility elsewhere in the school. The department works very effectively as a cohesive team. Standards of achievement are very high at both Key Stages 3 and 4 and results at A Level for both Language and Literature are very impressive.

CURRICULUM

English Language and Literature are taught in mixed ability groups throughout all key stages. Our aim is to foster a love of Literature and Language in pupils throughout their time at the school. English is a popular subject and pupils are enthusiastic about their lessons.

The intention in years 7-11 is to deliver the English curriculum through close focus on the key skills of GCSE in both Language and Literature from year 7 onwards. The key assessment objectives therefore provide the foundations for all of our teaching.

Key Stage 3

English is taught for four periods per week in year 7 and three periods per week in year 8, across a 30-period week.

The Department has a clear and balanced curriculum, with well-developed schemes of work and resources which are frequently reviewed and modified. There is a culture of collaboration and sharing best practice in the team. The department's online shared area contains a wealth of useful material.

We run the Accelerated Reader programme at KS3 to encourage close reading and develop literacy and comprehension skills. We have very close links with our excellent school library and work with the librarian to promote reading in a range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

Key Stage 4

We follow a three-year GCSE curriculum beginning in Year 9, following the AQA syllabus. English Language and Literature are taken at the end of Year 11, and the vast majority of pupils take both at GCSE.

Year 9 is a foundation year where students develop the skills required for GCSE.

Year 10 focuses on the delivery of the majority of the literature course content whilst developing the skills for English Language.

From term 2 of year 11 we focus primarily on examination skills and revision.

The impact of our delivery has resulted in excellent results. Progress is tracked from year 7 and students are familiar with the key assessment areas as they experience them throughout their learning journey in English.

A Level

Year 12 and 13 students are currently following the OCR specification for A Level English Language. Students study for the full A level course with internal assessments at the end of year 12.

For English Literature, we follow AQA's specification A. Students study for the full A level course with internal assessments at the end of year 12.

Pupils enjoy their English lessons, and feedback is positive from both parents and pupils. We have carefully planned our curriculum to be interesting, engaging and thorough in preparing for exam success.

RESULTS

- GCSE Language

Year	Grade	7+	5+	4+
2023	%	17.9	57.1	77
2024	%	17.4	49.3	74.6
2025	%	18	56.7	72.5

- GCSE literature

Year	Grade	7+	5+	4+
2023	%	19.9	59.5	79.8
2024	%	13.9	50.3	74.6
2025	%	20.9	62.7	81.6

- A Level literature

Year	Grade	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
2023	%	31.3	56.3	87.6	100
2024	%	33.4	3.4	83.4	100
2025	%	44	72.2	83	95

- A Level Language

Year	Grade	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
2023	%	22.2	33.3	77.7	99.9
2024	%	0	25	83.3	100
2025	%	0	0	71	100