



Hall Park
Academy

English Faculty

Thank you for your interest in the Hall Park Academy.

This is an extremely exciting time for the English faculty at Hall Park, having recently undergone significant KS3 developments to create a curriculum that we are passionate about, excited by, and proud of.

This has been a collaborative process, demonstrative of the collegiate nature of our faculty.

English at Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum intends to ensure that pupils are enriched and inspired culturally, emotionally and spiritually, and transition into well-rounded citizens of society. We feel passionately that we want our students to have a rich understanding of the literary canon, to enable them to make connections across texts and understand the typicality of genres through time. Therefore, our curriculum builds chronologically in Year 7, taking students on a journey through time from Myths and Legends, to the literary greats of Chaucer and Shakespeare, through to the Victorian era with a novel study of 'Wild Boy'. In Year 8, students will explore character archetypes in a range of fictional texts and explore the conventions of genre through the study of plays, poetry and prose. In Year 9, students build further on their skills with a focus on theme. This awards students with a strong foundation on which to build their future studies of English.

We have one top set on each year half for Year 7, 8 and 9, with all other groups taught in mixed ability. This enables our most able students to be appropriately challenged, while maintaining the benefits of mixed ability grouping in English. The most able readers in each year group will be supported through our Nine for Nine reading challenge – where students read nine books across the three year KS3 to increase their chances of achieving a grade 9 at GCSE. Students regularly complete reading tests. Those with a reading below age related expectations are supported to make rapid progress through a robust reading intervention programme, with the level of support depending on the specific needs of the individual. This could include phonics support, use of Lexia, small group intervention in Library lessons to aid fluency, or 1 to 1 reading to increase confidence.

English at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5

All GCSE students follow a course of English Language and English Literature, following the AQA specification. Our Literature texts are consciously chosen to link thematically, exploring the concepts of hubris, power and conflict. We study *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls* and the Power and Conflict Poetry Cluster. Students also complete the NEA Spoken Language component, which is completed on a topic of their choice to foster personal interest.

The faculty currently offers A Level English Literature, following the AQA 'Love through the Ages' syllabus. We study *Othello*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Pre-1900 Poetry*, *Feminine Gospels* and *Handmaid's Tale* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Students also complete their NEA comparative study on two texts of their choosing.

In addition, we offer GCSE resit to students that are continuing their studies at Hall Park 6th form.

Enrichment and Co-Curricular

We are proud to offer students an experience beyond the classroom to foster a love of English, and to enhance their studies further. The faculty organise a range of visits, including theatre trips to see key texts. Last year, we took students to see *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Christmas Carol*. This year, we are planning to take Y11 students to 'Poetry Live' in Nottingham.

We also have a strong co-curricular offer with Debate Club and our new Journalism Club. Students last year participated in a national competition; 'The Great Debate' and we intend to participate again this year. We encourage everyone in the team to play an active part in enrichment and co-curricular as it is a valued part of the experience for students.

Professional Development

We regard ourselves as a friendly, supportive and forward-thinking faculty that consistently seeks to find development opportunities for staff. As part of the Redhill Trust, we benefit from a wide range of professional development events. The academy will make an active commitment to offer colleagues up to three CPD opportunities or elements of support to enable them to achieve their professional development targets.

Amie Grainger

Faculty Leader for English

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