

BARNWOOD PARK

English Department Information

Our aim

- To develop a life-long love of reading by immersing our students in a variety of diverse and inspiring literature. To celebrate diversity through this literature.
- To impart in our students an understanding of the power and importance of spoken and written language.
- To celebrate every student's individuality, creativity and personal voice through their written and spoken communication.

The Department

The English Department is one of the most successful departments at Barnwood Park School. The team consists of ten experienced, dynamic and highly effective teachers, all of whom are passionate about their subject and dedicated to providing all students with excellent learning opportunities.

Our Curriculum

At **Key Stage 3**, our students follow a skills-based curriculum by following a series of thematic units designed to inspire and engage.

In **Year 7**, students begin by sharing their own **personal voice** in an autobiographical unit before exploring **19th Century** perspectives from a selection of texts linked to childhood and school experiences. Our students then continue to develop their individual voices in a topical unit, currently centred on the issues of keeping animals in captivity. Our students continue to develop these ideas and their viewpoints through their **exploration of poetry** and a **novel** before finishing the year with the study of **Shakespeare**.

In **Year 8**, our students continue to embed their knowledge of differing viewpoints and perspectives by studying a selection of non-fiction writing in a unit about **journeys**. We then celebrate identity and diversity in our **Words that Burn** poetry unit, offered in collaboration with Cheltenham Festivals and Amnesty International, before moving on to our **novel** study. Students explore the issues facing **19th Century** families before exploring the relevance of **Shakespeare** in a modern curriculum at the end of the year.

In **Year 9**, our students embed all of the skills required in Key Stage 4. We study **dystopia** and **conflict** through a range of texts and poems, working alongside the Humanities department to support each other's areas of study. Students continue to experience challenging texts including 'Of Mice and Men', 'Lord of the Flies' and 'The Crucible' to prepare them for the rigour of Key Stage 4. After this, a unit about **paranormal activity** embeds the skills required in English Language before we explore and analyse several of **Shakespeare's villains**.

At **Key Stage 4**, all students study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. These subjects are taught separately to allow all skills to be embedded and perfected, allowing every

student the best possible chance of success and enabling them to embark on their Key Stage 5 journey away from Barnwood Park School.

In **English Literature**, students study 'An Inspector Calls', 'A Christmas Carol', 'Macbeth' and the Conflict and Identity cluster of poems from the AQA Anthology.

In **English Language**, students experience a range of current fiction and non-fiction texts, engaging in debates and written arguments, alongside analysing the effect of language and authorial intention.

Current areas of focus

This is an exciting time to join the team as we continue to develop our curriculum and improve outcomes for all students:

Our current department focus is on:

- Continuing to increase the achievement of all students, at both Key Stages
- Raising attainment of our High Prior Attaining students to increase the uptake of English subjects at A level and beyond
- Continuing our relationship with Cheltenham Festivals and to offer projects to students in collaboration with Cheltenham Festivals
- Offering extra-curricular activities to embed a life-long love of reading and English.