#### The English Faculty

## Our Team

The English Faculty at The Radclyffe School is a passionate, skilled and supportive team with a strong shared vision. We understand the critical importance of English in terms of improving life chances and this is reflected in our commitment to breaking down barriers and empowering all students. Our aim is to foster a passion and love for English by encouraging students to be literary explorers and opening up worlds both similar and different to their own. We immerse our students in cultural capital and develop knowledge that allows them to become critical thinkers and articulate communicators. Ultimately, we aim to ensure that when our students leave school they not only have qualifications that allow them to progress to the next stage of education and employment, but are able to take part in conversations, discussions and debates that they may otherwise be excluded from.

We strive for personal excellence and are constantly seeking ways to refine and develop our practice, both as individuals and as a team. The Faculty consists of 14 specialist English teachers. In addition to the Head of Faculty, six members of staff hold TLRs and one member of the team is a Lead Practitioner.

### Groupings

In accordance with school policy, students at KS3 are taught in sets according to ability. Each year group is divided into 2 bands and these are divided into 5/6 sets each. We operate a three-year Key Stage 3 to ensure that all students have a rich and diverse curriculum that does not narrow or limit their experience of English. At KS4, students study English Language and Literature alongside each other. We take pride in the fact that our students continue to benefit from a knowledge-based curriculum as they progress through their KS4 journey.

**Curriculum Provision**

Throughout both Key Stages, students have 8 sixty-minute periods per fortnight (including dedicated Library and Grammar lessons at KS3). Lessons at KS4 are blocked in half-year bands – enabling flexible movement between groups as appropriate.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

**Key Stage 3 – Y7, 8 and 9**

The Faculty follows the National Curriculum Programmes of Study laid down for Key Stage 3. Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing skills, are taught in integrated units. Our KS3 Schemes of Work were recently revised as the English team are reflective practitioners and continuously pursue excellence for our students. The new curriculum offers students the opportunity to study Literature from a wide range of time periods and genres whilst also ensuring that there are ‘windows and mirrors’ that allow students to gain knowledge of others but also see themselves and their own experiences reflected in the curriculum. The effectiveness of the curriculum is regularly reviewed and we are currently focussed on developing students’ ability to write academically and build their tier 2 vocabulary to ensure that they are empowered to communicate articulately, succinctly and with confidence. Reading is also a key focus and all students participate in the *Accelerated Reader* scheme. Weaker readers in Y7,8 & 9 are given extra support through the *Fresh Start* Phonics programme.

**Key Stage 4 – 10-11**

As a faculty, it is important to us that we do not limit the curriculum by teaching solely to the exam specification. Although, KS4 is aimed to prepare students to excel in their GCSEs, we believe it is crucial to continue developing students’ knowledge and love of English. Students have 2 timetabled lessons of English Language each week and 2 timetabled lessons of Literature, ensuring all students receive a broad and varied diet. In Literature lessons, students develop their knowledge of carefully chosen texts and continue to build their academic writing skills. They are encouraged to pursue lines of inquiry and examine writer’s methods, speculate on writer’s intentions and consider how societal factors influenced the writing of texts. English Language lessons are timetable separately and they are designed not only to build the skills and knowledge in order to succeed in their Language GCSE, but also to complement the English Literature curriculum. They build creative and transactional writing skills, develop students’ knowledge of how to critically evaluate, compare both language and viewpoint, and crucially, they continue to build vocabulary that empowers them!

**Results**

Our results at KS4 are very strong and contribute to excellent outcomes for our students across the curriculum. Sustaining this level of attainment is a key priority area for Faculty development and we are working towards challenging targets in relation to Progress 8 and Attainment 8.

**Intervention and Support**

Whilst it is the responsibility of the individual English teacher to ensure that all students in a class receive their entitlement in English, the Faculty does have close working relationships with the Learning Support Faculty. Where possible, teachers also have timetabled Tutoring for Excellence to support specific classes either in-class or by small group withdrawal. This enables us to identify and intervene with students who need personalised support. We also work closely with other agencies/faculties to develop expertise and produce materials targeting specific groups e.g. Literacy skills for SEN learners.

**Assessment**

Assessment is an integral part of the learning and teaching process and all lessons incorporate regular opportunities for peer and self-assessment. At KS3 assessment and recording procedures ensure students’ progress is closely monitored using our KS3 tracker. Standardisation procedures are well established at KS4 and assessment of students’ progress towards targets is monitored at appropriate times at whole school and Faculty level.

**ICT**

Information Technology is an essential tool in our development of students’ language and communication skills and is used across the Key Stages. Each teaching room is equipped with a digital projector and interactive SMART board with integrated speakers. In addition, there are three dedicated ICT rooms within the English faculty and classes are timetabled in these.

**Resources / Rooms**

The Faculty has a suite of twelve very well-equipped ‘state of the art’ classrooms. There is a staffed reprographics to ensure all teacher can provide resources for their classes. Our well-stocked library and adjacent computer suite provides an additional teaching resource which is currently used for library lessons and the *Accelerated Reader* programme. All members of staff also have a high specification laptop computer for planning, preparation and lesson delivery. In addition to the main staffroom the English Faculty has its own dedicated PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) room for staff use during non-contact time.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

We offer regular theatre visits (to Stratford, the West End and the Lowry) and dinnertime activities include Book Club & Creative Writing Club. Students participate in a range of workshops run by professional writers throughout the year. English Staff also run revision and booster classes for KS4 students. Over recent years we have been involved in the National Film Project and are regular contributors to the BBC School News programme. We regularly participate in *Readathon* and celebrate *National Poetry Day.* We have a team of English Faculty prefects who work to promote reading & literacy across the school.