



THE  
KING'S  
SCHOOL  
GRANTHAM



# The English Department

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION



## THE SCHOOL

For centuries, The King's School has been committed to academic excellence. Our first mention as an educational institution dates back to 1327, but it was in 1528 that the school was re-founded by Bishop Foxe of Winchester and, since then, has gone on to provide an exemplary education to thousands of boys – one of which was Sir Isaac Newton!

## OUR AIMS

We aim to inspire intellectual curiosity, encourage a competitive spirit and develop creative thinking. We foster social responsibility and leadership skills within our students and a strong sense of community underpins everything we do. We value commitment, we celebrate success, and we offer an environment which not only leads to academic success but also to self-discovery and a sense of personal worth.

## THE POST

We look forward to welcoming a successful candidate who will fit in well with our thriving and forward-thinking department. Our teaching methods are in line with the objectives established in the Person Specification and overall, we seek to facilitate the growth and progression of our employees as well as the children they teach.



## THE DEPARTMENT

The English Department is comprised of 7 full-time and one part-time teaching staff. The team members are enthusiastic, friendly and highly dedicated professionals who are committed to teaching English at the highest possible level. The Department has a suite of seven subject rooms, each with an interactive whiteboard.

The School intake at Year 7 is 174. These students are selected via the Eleven Plus entrance examination.

As an English department, we are relentless in our pursuit of academic excellence and rigour. Our rich, robust and well-sequenced curriculum actively encourages students to develop a life-long interest of our language and literature. From Year 7 onwards, we actively seek to broaden and enrich our students' cultural perspectives by teaching high-quality and challenging literary texts. We also understand the importance of offering students a true breadth of literature from a diverse range of different writers, backgrounds and contexts. Whilst there will always be a place for celebrated canonical writers in our 21st Century curriculum, we are working hard to include works produced by writers from different cultures and ethnicities. For example, while our Year 7s will be covering Shakespearean and Medieval Literature, they will also be reading a diverse range of modern poems from different voices. Furthermore, our Year 12 will be studying Tennessee Williams, a tour de force in the American canon, while deconstructing poems by Shelley, Keats, Byron and Blake. We understand that our literature and language is culturally rich and diverse, and we feel it is imperative that our programme of study reflects this.

Our Key Stage 3 programme of study ensures students are honing their reading and writing skills to guarantee future success at GCSE. For example, our dynamic

Reading and Writing workshops, taught alongside our main schemes of work, are designed to help students with their literacy and reading comprehension skills. In addition, students will begin developing their ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of a wide range of different texts. Students will also develop their speaking and listening skills by participating and engaging in lively debates and presentations.

Our Key Stage 4 programme of study builds on the powerful knowledge implemented at KS3. Students will learn how to respond to texts critically by exploring language, form, structure, meaning and alternative interpretations. We will also explore a range of different social, historical and cultural contexts and literary traditions. We currently deliver the GCSE English Language and English Literature Edexcel specifications.

At Key Stage 5, we expect our students to become scholars of English. They will engage in lively seminars and lectures on a range of different issues. We expect our students to be academically challenged and stimulated through our robust programme of study, one which actively encourages our scholars to become increasingly more independent and sensitive to literary analysis. We find that our students quickly develop key skills that will help them succeed at university and beyond. We offer A levels in English Literature (Edexcel) and English Language and Literature (OCR).

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## ASSESSMENT & LEARNING

The school aims to deliver outstanding lessons, inspire curiosity, and develop students' genuine interest in their subjects.

Every class is taught in a way to prepare students for their examinations. Ongoing assessment, both teacher and peer, is a key element of the department's approach and the use of both formative and summative assessments on a regular basis provides vital information. Staff can initiate intervention strategies for areas where students require extra support, and their progress can be easily tracked. All members of the department are expected to use 'assessment for learning' strategies to inform their lesson preparation and teaching. The department assesses all work in terms

of effort and attainment to further stretch gifted and talented students and provide additional support where needed.

Students are assigned homework once per 6 lessons in years 7-9. Key Stages 4 and 5 are expected to complete set homework where appropriate, being theory or project-based. Feedback is carried out quickly and accurately and is based on examination criteria where appropriate.

