



HWS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English at Hinchley Wood is a strong and thriving department, staffed by eleven dynamic and committed teachers, forming a collaborative and supportive team who strive to provide a consistently exceptional English education for students. Both English and Media (there is a separate Head of Media within the English team) are popular subjects.

The department is accommodated in the main school building on two floors and there is a shared English workroom and separate Head of Department's office. All classrooms have interactive technology and the team work closely with the Learning Resources Centre to promote reading and library lessons.

All students follow a recently revised Key Stage 3 curriculum, the objective of which is to allow students to really enjoy English in all its aspects and become independent and creative thinkers. At present, Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability groups and from Year 8 they are taught in ability sets. At Key Stage 4, we offer English and English Literature to all students following the AQA specifications. The results in 2025 (and 2024 in brackets) were as follows:

- English Language: 90% 4+ / 83% 5+ (91% 4+ / 79% 5+)
- English Literature: 91% 4+ / 84% 5+ (92% 4+ / 79% 5+)

At A Level we also follow the AQA English Literature course and again year on year have successful results, see 2025 results below (and 2024 in brackets):

- English Lit: 56% A*-A / 74% A*-B / 96% A*-C (35% A*-A / 65% A*-B / 86% A*-C)

Department meetings are focused on teaching and learning and pedagogical development of all team members. We have a strong internal whole school CPD offer which provides extensive opportunities for teacher development including bespoke CPD sessions, Teaching and Learning Forums, and Curriculum Masterclasses. We also use IRIS technology to support pedagogical development and to run our internal Collaborative Coaching model. In addition, we are always outward looking and strive to share good practice with other schools and to learn from them.

The English department run a range of extra-curricular initiatives, including a popular 'Sound of Pen' initiative. Throughout the year students participate in a number of external visits from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 to support their learning in the classroom including a number of theatre trips. We also run internal enrichment opportunities such as the popular 'Poetry by Heart'. We work closely with our LRC Manager to host a number of author visits and talks throughout the year.

A key priority for the English department - and the whole school - is the promotion of reading, for both development and enjoyment. We have an appointed Reading Champion who works within the department to promote reading through a number of initiatives. We subscribe to SparxReader which forms the basis of reading homework in Key Stage 3.



This is a really exciting opportunity to lead a team of positive and enthusiastic English teachers and to teach students who are keen to learn and who enjoy being at school.

English Team 2025/26

Farah Strevens	Head of English
Michelle Archer	Teacher of English
Maria Cachia	Teacher of English / Headteacher
John Cahillane	Teacher of English / KS5 Coordinator
Gill Hildyard	Teacher of English / Joint KS3 Coordinator
Keri Lilico	Teacher of English / Head of Media Studies
Hannah Rodin	Teacher of English
Max Saddleton	Teacher of English / KS4 Coordinator / Reading Champion
Chris Silverio	Teacher of English
Alison Urdiales	Teacher of English
Rachel Williams	Teacher of English / Joint KS3 Coordinator