

January 2020

## English Department at Stowupland High School

Stowupland High School recognises that English underpins the entire curriculum and is of vital importance in preparing students for later life. The English department also makes a major contribution to the school's overall academic success in terms of the percentage of students achieving 5 A\*-C, including Maths and English, at GCSE. Consequently, the English department has an extremely high profile throughout the school.

The department consists of the Subject Leader for English and Media, the Assistant Subject Leader and seven other specialist teachers, including two who are part-time and a member of SLT. The department is housed in eight classrooms that are mostly adjacent to each other. Each room has either a smartboard or a data projector and wireless network access. The department also enjoys the use of a bank of modern laptops that students can use within lessons. Every teacher is provided with his/her own laptop by the school.

### KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7, 8 & 9)

We strive to ensure that the curriculum experienced by students at Key Stage 3 cements the transition from primary school, affords students opportunities to study texts, which foster a love of our language and literature, and develops in students the highest levels of technical accuracy necessary for further study at GCSE and beyond. We are currently using the Accelerated Reader programme, the Bedrock vocabulary programme and the Hackney Literacy Trust LIT programme to assist us in developing students' literacy skills.

### KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 AND 11)

At GCSE our students follow the Eduqas syllabus for both English Language and Literature. Our GCSE results are testimony to the depth and breadth of pedagogical knowledge of our staff, not to mention their commitment to ensuring that every child realises his or her academic potential. Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular theatre visits to productions of their GCSE set texts and we have organised specific enrichment activities such as visits from poets and authors to deepen our students' understanding of authorial choices and how these help create meaning.

### KEY STAGE 5

We currently offer three A level courses: AQA English Language, AQA Media Studies and AQA B English Literature, following the tragedy and social and political protest writing routes. Results in 2019 were very pleasing with all three subjects achieving an above average ALPS rating. Many students opted to continue their study of English, Film and Media at Universities throughout the United Kingdom. We derive a great sense of pride from the mature critical analysis and confident 'emotionally literate' exploration of challenging literary and media texts that our students demonstrate a proficiency in at this Key Stage.



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*Stowupland safeguards and promotes the welfare of students and requires all staff and visitors to share this commitment.*