



The English Department

The English Department at Christopher Whitehead Language College & Sixth Form consists of a team of 14 English specialists. Within the department there are five teachers with responsibilities: the Head of Department, Second in English and KS4 Coordinator, KS5 Coordinator, KS3 Coordinator and Examiner Lead. We are also very lucky to have two oracy experts and an ECT coordinator in our department. We work very closely with the school librarians, the Additional Needs Department and we benefit from the support of dedicated Learning Support Assistants for the department, including a specialist in the teaching of reading.

The department has a suite of rooms which are mostly situated along one corridor. This allows us to support each other and to work closely together. The English teaching rooms are all equipped with projectors, whiteboards and stand-alone networked computers. We are a supportive and hard-working department, which communicates well, both formally and informally. Departmental meetings focus on disseminating good practice and utilising our skills and experiences as educational professionals so that we can grow a curriculum that is continuously evolving and refining. We are working hard to develop a centralised collection of resources that work together to build a comprehensive curriculum focused on the acquisition of skills, vocabulary, contextual knowledge and metacognitive processes that enable students to develop academic confidence and independence.

Our inclusive curriculum ensures that every student, regardless of background or ability, has access to the power of language and literature. Our English curriculum is designed as windows, mirrors and maps to the world, offering students opportunities to explore diverse perspectives, reflect in their own experience and navigate their place in society. We celebrate literary heritage and seminal works while ensuring that diverse voices are heard, valued and explored.

At GCSE we follow AQA specifications for English Language and English Literature. At A-Level we offer AQA English Literature and OCR English Language and Literature and WJEC Film Studies. The CWLC Sixth Form is thriving, and we look forward to widening this offer in the future.

The students are taught in broad banded groups and on two bands. Behaviour in the classrooms and on the corridors has been consistently graded as outstanding by three OFSTED inspections in a row and as a result Christopher Whitehead is a school where it is a pleasure to teach.

If you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of English, Miss Charlotte Haines (c.haines@cwlc.email)