



English at South Nottinghamshire Academy

Our mission is to foster a life-long love of the written word and to identify a clear character and purpose for English, emphasising its importance both inside the classroom and beyond. The faculty embraces both the traditional and the contemporary by balancing a study of literary classics with 21st century new media.

We consider it a privilege to be in a role that increases a student's knowledge and understanding of the power of language. It is our ambition to inspire our students, to share our passion for English and to become successful, analytical and empathetic communicators of the 21st Century.

The successful applicant will join a team of nine highly motivated professionals who enable students to maximise their potential by developing a deep understanding of English Literature and language through engaging, challenging and enjoyable lessons. The faculty has a friendly and supportive atmosphere with teaching and learning at the centre of everything we do. English staff are supported in continually developing their practice as we all strive for excellence and, due to the positive working relationships within the department, development work is routinely carried out as a team. The department have excellent relationships with the Redhill Academy Trust English network and take an active part in the further professional development this provides. Staff also have many opportunities to take part in other external, subject-specific professional development across the Trust throughout each academic year.

The English Department is based on the second floor of our brand-new school building that opened in September 2016. We have seven specialist teaching rooms and a substantial workroom. All classrooms have an Interactive Smartboard and teachers are provided with laptops.

The principle of our curriculum is 'high challenge and low threat'; it is rooted in rigorous literary knowledge which supports all students to fulfil their potential. The 'Let's Think in English' cognitive acceleration programme, developed at King's College London, is at the heart of what we do, supporting our curriculum at both KS3 and KS4. We regularly review and improve our curriculum to enhance our students' experience.

Key Stage 3

Students are taught in mixed ability in Year 7 and Year 8 and lower attaining students are taught in smaller classes with an increased allocation of curriculum time. All students, of all abilities, study a range of prose, poetry and Shakespeare texts within Key Stage 3 and our curriculum covers all aspects of the National Curriculum. Students also engage in weekly Accelerated Reader lessons in our school library.

Key Stage 4

Students are taught in broad set classes that are based on their prior attainment. Students within Key Stage 4 study AQA GCSE English Language and AQA GCSE English Literature, both of which are examined at the end of Year 11. Within GCSE English Literature, the students study 'Romeo & Juliet', 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Power and Conflict' poetry. The department also offers GCSE Media studies as an option subject for students and follows the WJEC specification.

The department adopts a collaborative and dynamic approach to all work with all resources available on the school Shared Drive. Where possible, teachers will remain with their groups throughout Key Stage 4 to provide consistency for the students as they navigate these crucial years. A highly structured intervention programme is in place at Key Stage 4 in order to support the whole school priority of raising attainment and progress of students in English and Maths.

The English department has high aspirations and expectations for both staff and students which has resulted in consistently outstanding results and significant positive progress scores despite the disruptions and challenges incurred post-pandemic.

Key Stage 5

The department offers a range of Post 16 options for its students; AQA A' Level English Literature Specification A, AQA A' Level English Language and Eduqas A' Level Media Studies. Annually, the department has great success with Post 16 students, many of whom go on to study one of these three subjects at undergraduate level at Russell Group Universities.

Enrichment

The English Department is passionate about broadening the cultural horizons of its students and seeks to take students to see local and national theatre productions. Recently, many of our students have enjoyed trips to the RSC to see productions of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Othello'. In addition to this, the department works closely with the Drama Department with the annual production and also runs a weekly film club and creativity club.

The English team at SNA work hard to create activities and lessons that develop a student's creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. We strongly believe in the power of the spoken and written word as learning tools and the importance of

developing positive relationships with young learners. The 2022 OFSTED report noted that, across the Academy,

"There are positive relationships between staff and pupils. Staff have high expectations of pupils conduct and pupils demonstrate commitment to their learning."

We are seeking to add an energetic, enthusiastic and engaging teacher who will embrace the ethos of the South Nottinghamshire Academy English Department.

In the next two years the department considers its main priorities to be:

- Continue to improve the progress of all students but with a specific focus on supporting our disadvantaged students.
- Developing metacognition and dialogic approaches in our practice.
- Maintaining our outstanding results and teaching practices.

Zarina Seaton
Faculty Leader of English