



The English and Media faculty is a large and collaborative faculty, staffed by teachers working together to achieve our faculty vision of developing in our students the qualities of curiosity, courage and empathy. We achieve this through an exciting and innovative thematic curriculum at Key Stage 3, in which students study nine themes over the course of Years 7, 8 and 9 – starting with *Myths, Quests and Journeys* in Year 7, travelling through themes such as *Identity and The Hero* and finishing with *Class, Power and Politics* in Year 9. Within each theme, students explore a range of texts including plays, poetry, novels, non-fiction and media; and develop their own writing skills accordingly. Our aim is that students arrive at Key Stage 4 with a wealth of cultural, literary and linguistic knowledge that enriches their understanding of GCSE texts; the courage to form their own interpretations and opinions and the empathy to develop personal responses.

At Key Stage 4, we follow the AQA syllabus for both English Language and English Literature. Teachers have free choice over the texts they can study for English Literature; we currently have classes working on *An Inspector Calls*, *Animal Farm*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Never Let Me Go* and *Blood Brothers* for their modern texts. English Language is taught thematically; for example, when studying narrative writing, students may follow mini units on crime writing, including excerpts from *Line of Duty* and Gothic writing using Edgar Allen Poe. We have also worked recently to increase the diversity of writers students encounter on their route from Years 7 to 11. We follow the Eduquas syllabus for Media Studies which is a popular option at GCSE and is led by a designated Film & Media Curriculum Lead.

At Key Stage 5, we follow AQA's A specification for English Literature and OCR's specification for English Language. These courses are currently delivered by seven different teachers and it is always an aim to ensure access to A level teaching for as many staff as possible.

In Years 7 and 8, English lessons are delivered to tutor groups. In Year 9, we gain an extra two classes to facilitate smaller class sizes so that we can teach in mixed ability groups; our aim is to teach to the top and scaffold all students towards that top. We also have a nurture group for students whose needs are better met in a smaller and more specialist environment. This model continues through Key Stage 4. A level numbers have grown for 2022-23 and this pattern looks set to continue for 2023-24.

The faculty has nine classrooms, a computer room and a faculty office. We offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities for students which this year has included theatre trips to *A Christmas Carol*, *The Woman in Black* and *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*. Students also have the opportunity to participate in AFSAD – the *Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate* which is run in collaboration with the four other schools in the Athelstan Trust. We work closely with these schools in a number of ways, often sharing CPD opportunities such as, this year, a course on Aspirational English Teaching with Megan Mansworth. Year 11 students across the Trust are also participating this year in two English Conferences, designed to target the top grades at GCSE and to develop enthusiasm for studying English post-16. Staff across the schools have worked together to deliver these conferences, led by our School Improvement Lead at the Trust. Teachers from the Trust schools meet regularly and often spend time in each other's departments to see what we can learn from each other.

We have a number of TLR roles within the faculty and opportunities for development arise regularly. We are a dedicated, enthusiastic and friendly team who enjoy working together and working with our students.