



The Chantry English Department

Information for candidates

English at The Chantry is taught by a strong and experienced team of staff with a clear focus on continuing improvement and outstanding pupil achievement. Great importance is placed upon the quality of teaching and learning. We have high expectations of our pupils, and we aim to inspire all our learners to succeed in becoming proficient and assured users of language.

Our purpose at The Chantry is to provide the kind of high-quality education which is a prerequisite to lifelong learning and love of learning. In the English department, we understand the key role which English has in each child's holistic development. We want our pupils to love coming to English, and to leave us ready to embrace their future as confident communicators in the world beyond school. We believe that enjoyment and passion are key to successful learning and we aspire to ignite an enthusiasm for all aspects of English among our learners.

The English team embraces change, which is a natural part of the subject and the wider educational climate in which we work. We have planned our curriculum collaboratively, drawing on the individual strengths of the English staff.

Our curriculum

Most pupils are taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7 & 8 and grouped according to ability from Year 9 onwards. The English curriculum in Year 7 & 8 aims to provide a smooth transition from primary by building on communication skills in reading, writing and spoken language through a range of Mastery schemes. Throughout Key Stage Three, pupils focus on improving their analytical skills by exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts of incremental complexity, sophistication and challenge. Written work is produced for a wide range of purposes and audiences, with an increasing emphasis placed upon technical accuracy. Our schemes of work link explicitly and proportionately to the assessment objectives which underpin our GCSE courses. Where possible, pupils are encouraged to communicate using real-world contexts. A particular focus is placed on reading for pleasure and building reading and writing stamina in preparation for the extended tasks which are a requirement of GCSE level study.

At Key Stage Four, pupils follow the AQA English Language and English Literature or English courses. Units of work include the study of a Shakespeare play, poetry on the themes of Power & Conflict and a 19th Century prose text. Spoken Language is integrated into the curriculum.

Extra-Curricular

There are many opportunities for pupils to enrich their learning by taking part in a range of extra-curricular activities on offer. These include our summer term immersion days, during which pupils have a chance to explore an aspect of English in greater depth.

Throughout the year we enjoy inviting visiting authors into school to support and encourage our love of reading and to offer inspiration for our own writing.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We always welcome visits from interested candidates.

Ms A Bates, Head of English. February 2026.