

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 enable them in becoming successful, analytical and empathetic communicators.

SNA English Department, 2019

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 six specialist teaching rooms and a substantial workroom. All classrooms have an Interactive Smartboard and teachers are provided with laptops.

The school as a whole has undergone a phase of curriculum development which was motivated by the need to increase the emphasis on achievement in Maths and English as well as major changes to the program of study and the reformed 9 -1 GCSEs. As a result of this we have a three-year Key Stage 4 and students have increased hours of English in Years 9 and 10.

Key Stage 3

Students are taught in traditional set groups from the start of Year 7 and the faculty operates a top heavy setting policy to enable increased levels of support for students in lower ability groups. All students, of all abilities, study a range of texts within Key Stage 3 including; Shakespeare and Dickens, and will engage in a fortnightly Accelerated Reader library lesson and Let's Think in English metacognition lessons.

Key Stage 4

As in Key Stage 3, students are taught in 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', 'The strange case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Power and Conflict' poetry. 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 an outstanding set of results in August 2019 and in 2020 in English Literature and Language.

2019: Grade 9-4 94%	Grade 9-5 80%	Grade 9-7 37%
2020: Grade 9-4 87.5%	Grade 9-5 75%	Grade 9-7 31%

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 theatre productions. In addition to this, the department works closely with the Drama Department with the annual production in February. The department also runs the school magazine 'Advocate' and an after school, 'literature in film' 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 2017 OFSTED report noted that, across the Academy,

"Good relationships between pupils and teachers support learning and encourage pupils to answer questions in the classroom, even when they might be wrong."

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 addressing the gender attainment gap.
- Continue to raise the reading ages of KS3 students.
- Maintaining our outstanding results and teaching practices.

Zarina Seaton
Faculty Leader of English