

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The department is currently made up of eleven experienced teachers who work collaboratively to provide an excellent learning environment for our students. The department is led by a Head of Department, a Second in Department and a Key Stage Three Co-Ordinator. Most colleagues teach across the key stages, including A-level, and outstanding subject knowledge is a key feature of the department.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum reflects the national changes to GCSE that have taken place over recent years. The Key Stage 3 curriculum that we follow prepares students for the demands of national assessments while promoting a love of literature and enhancing students' cultural capital. Within a broad structure there is a creative and dynamic approach to teaching the subject through a termly themed focus, allowing teachers to share their passion and enthusiasm for English. We currently teach mixed ability in Year 7 and 8 and subsequently in sets through to Year 11. There is access to an interactive active panel in every classroom.

Students make the transition to GCSE during the final term of Year 9 and our curriculum provides the opportunity for all students to access both English Language and English Literature at GCSE level. We follow the AQA specifications for GCSE English Language and English Literature. In 2024 86% of students gained a Level 9 - 4 in English Literature and in English Language. 21% of students achieved levels 7 – 9 in English Literature and 20% achieved Level 7 – 9 in English Language.

There is a clear focus on literacy within our schemes of work. Our Head of English has worked alongside the Literacy Co-ordinator to implement Disciplinary Literacy across the whole curriculum. The Learning Resource Centre at King Edward VI School is a hub for cross-curricular work and all departments access the curriculum through the LRC, particularly during Key Stage 3. In particular the English department aims to encourage all students to read widely and independently through links to the Library. We have strong links to the Learning Support department through which specialist provision is provided in Key Stage 3 and 4 to support learning in and beyond the classroom.

English Language and English Literature A-levels are very popular options in our large, successful 6th Form. We offer two-year linear courses. We have multiple classes for A Level English Language and English Literature. Our A Level results are consistently above the national average.

The English department has a strong team ethos, we enjoy a culture where staff readily share resources, and we are willing to learn from each other. We are keen to see the department develop a high profile within the school and the local area, sharing and developing good practice.