



## CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Frances Mary Buss Foundation

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### English and Drama Teacher at Camden School for Girls

#### Information for Candidates

The English and Drama Department at Camden School for Girls is a large and vibrant department with an outstanding record of achievement across all key stages. An Ofsted-type Borough Inspection in 2011 assessed the Department as 'outstanding' in all areas. Examination results are consistently well above the national average. In 2019, Progress 8 for the English element was 1.12 with 85% Grades 9 - 5 and 96% Grades 9 - 4 in GCSE English Language and 90% Grades 9 - 5 and 97% Grades 9 - 4 in GCSE English Literature. In A-level English literature, 93% of students achieved Grades A\* - B and 100% A - C. In A-level Drama, 88% of students achieved Grades A\* - B and 100% A - C.

The Department values creativity and students are encouraged to develop the skills to become creative thinkers, readers, speakers and writers. Through lessons that combine the best of traditional and innovative teaching methods, we hope to develop students' curiosity and instil a real zest for learning. Our aim is always to bring out the very best in every student by challenging the most able whilst providing support for those who need it.

At present, **Key Stage 3** classes have six 40 minute lessons each week. Classes are taught as mixed ability groups in Years 7 and 8 with a small number withdrawn for small group teaching. In Year 9, classes are broadly banded. A unit-based syllabus is followed which places emphasis on developing students' ability to use and to appreciate the English language in increasingly sophisticated ways. The Department places huge emphasis on the study of literature, both contemporary and the literary heritage. Each year, students study a range of texts – prose, poetry and drama as well as media and non-fiction texts. In Years 7 and 8, students cover two sequences of Drama lessons within the English provision. These aim to develop students' confidence and creativity in a range of skills.

At **Key Stage 4**, all students study for GCSEs in English Language and English Literature, following the OCR specifications. There is some broad banding of classes according to ability. English is allocated six 40-minute periods per week.

At **Key Stage 5**, English is an extremely popular subject with 10 groups (totalling almost 200 students) studying the OCR A-Level English Literature course. In addition, we offer Drama and Theatre Studies at A-Level, following the EdExcel specification. Each class is allocated seven 40 minute lessons and will be taught by two teachers. Many of our students go on to study English/ Drama at Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge, as well as Drama colleges.

There are six English classrooms in the Camden Building. The Department is well-resourced with IWBs and our own suite of 30 Chromebooks. The school library is well equipped to meet the demands of English students and the school is fortunate to have the services of a full-time librarian. The Library and ICT rooms can be used by classes.

Extra curricular activities have a high priority in the school and we organise theatre trips, visiting speakers and workshops as well as a range of in-school competitions such as poetry and short-story writing competitions, a poetry by heart competition, public speaking and the annual Year 7 Spelling Quiz.