

The Bemrose School: English Area

The present English team comprises 11 teachers and one HLTA. As well as the Learning Director for English, two other members of the current team hold English – related TLRs within secondary. The Deputy Head for Teaching and Learning and the Assistant Heads for Standards, Literacy across the curriculum and KS3 respectively are part of the English department. We are a thriving and developmental team who strive to provide high quality learning experiences within and outside the classroom. We work collaboratively to devise schemes of work and colleagues share resources willingly with one another. In the recent Ofsted report for the school, English teaching was noted as a strength of the school.

In the secondary phase we deliver English and related subjects throughout KS3, KS4 and post 16. Years 7 – 9 focus on developing a child's knowledge and enjoyment of English, looking at embedding the key skills required for students to succeed. We have recently revised our curriculum and explore a range of texts, using a variety of approaches to help enrich students' educational experience. In KS4 we offer Edexcel English Literature and Language and historically have offered Film/Media studies, a course we hope to bring back in the near future. Post 16 provision includes AS and A level in AQA English Language as well as re-sit opportunities for those who need to secure their grade 4 at GCSE.

Teaching and Learning audits and the two recent Ofsted inspections judged teaching and learning to be at least consistently good with an increasing proportion of outstanding lessons being observed in the past year. Tracking of student progress is rigorous and regular, supplementing whole school systems to ensure that interventions are effectively deployed. We make use of 121 opportunities, breakfast clubs and after school revision sessions as appropriate.

Extra-curricular provision is considered extremely important for our students who often have little opportunity to visit the cinema or theatre and thoroughly enjoy events where they can meet authors or those working in the media. We use our own school library service often and have very strong links with Derby Theatre, endeavouring to take students to the theatre whenever possible. Our BBC School Report and World Book Day events are now well established and have very good participation rates. We also enter several national writing competitions each year and our students love to see their work in print.

The team has a great track record of nurturing PGCE, Teach First and NQT colleagues. We are a highly supportive and welcoming team who are open to ideas and like to be creative.