

Faculty of English and Communications

The faculty currently consists of ten members of staff: the Learning Director, two Curriculum Leaders (one English, one Psychology), two full-time and four part-time English specialists and two Psychology specialists. All English teachers have opportunities to teach across all key stages, including A-Level. This vacancy is created through the retirement of two part-time colleagues.

The English and Communications faculty is a vibrant, forward-thinking and energetic one with students' personal and academic ambitions at its core. Our Key Stage Three curriculum runs through Years 7-9, and prepares students for the AQA English Language and English Literature GCSEs, as well as AQA Drama and Eduqas Media Studies at GCSE. A-Level English is always a very popular choice, where we study OCR English Literature and AQA English Language.

Our exam results are consistently high. In 2019, 24 students received A*/A in A-Level Literature, with 80% in English Language achieving A*-B. At GCSE, our subject achieved a 0.6 progress score (100% 9-4), with 50% grade 7 in English Language and 65% in English Literature. GCSE Media Studies students achieved 75% 9-7 grades.

Our teachers love our subjects and frequently have passionate, supportive conversations about how to develop our teaching and learning. Our Key Stage Three curriculum is designed to see literature as a series of conversations and responses between writers and readers. It's fully resourced but is regularly under review: we believe English teaching is at its best when we can respond to the enthusiasms and expertise of both the teachers and students. Across the school we play a leading role in developing innovative practice, showcasing our work internally and at national conferences. We have high expectations, but also constantly review our practices to ensure that teachers have a happy work-life balance that enables them to be at their best, just as we would expect for our students, with a sensible and manageable feedback policy and open, regular discussions around workload.

We have an ethos which encourages student voice, creating a platform for students to be ambitious, optimistic and engaged. Our aim at SGHS is to teach to the top, building in the structures of support and self-regulation needed to succeed. Our strong personalized approach is valued by students who feel well supported in their studies and enjoy the good relationships they have with staff. All students have their own laptops and we balance the use of our VLE platform and Microsoft Teams for lesson content, while modelling the importance of the right tool for the task.

The English and Communications faculty plays a full part in the academic, pastoral, and social life of the school, acting as personal tutors and taking part in the school's CPD programme. The whole-school focus on distributed leadership means there is ample opportunity for all staff to work with those in other faculties, showcase their work across the school and lead innovation according to an individual's areas of interest and expertise. We also run an active extra-curricular programme, with activities including debating, book club, creative writing, and the very popular FemSoc.

The study of English is fundamental to our students' success and happiness, and we encourage all our students to enjoy the subject and achieve to the best of their abilities.