

# The English Department

## Department Ethos

Language is the essential tool of communication and communication is the most sought-after of skills. Learning to use language in an effective way, in order to present the best of one's ideas, emotions, beliefs and ideas, is a process which contributes to the personal, academic and social development of all pupils.

The study of English Literature provides pupils with insight into ways of judging the world we live in today. Whether studying plays, prose or poetry, pupils explore the craft of language and its power to communicate messages. Literature reveals emotional truths, beliefs, attitudes and cultural values. Through exploring literature, we explore our own perceptions of life.

At The Bishops' Blue Coat High School, we recognise that pupils are sophisticated users of language and we encourage them to develop their creativity in speech and writing. This creativity must be coupled with knowledge of, and ability to use, the formal expectations within language that ensure clarity and coherence of expression.

Pupils are encouraged to engage with language and literature in environments beyond the classroom, through our close links with the school library and the drama department and also activities such as theatre trips, visiting performances and writing for publications within school.

The department has recruited some excellent teachers over the past few years and there is a strong ethos of support and success. We pride ourselves on our collaborative approach to planning and are always sharing best practice to ensure teaching and learning is effective, engaging and enjoyable. There are also opportunities to take on the leadership of small projects and innovation that will positively impact on learning; such involvement is always welcomed.

## Curriculum

### **Key Stage 3**

In Key Stage 3, pupils cover all areas of literature and language, providing a grounding for key skills at GCSE. We provide a conceptualised curriculum where lessons, texts and assessment are focused around concepts such as 'The Gothic', 'Conflict' and 'Our Wonderful World'. Students will read a variety of literary texts including poetry, novels, short stories and plays as well as experiencing a wide range of non-fiction texts. Written work will seek to develop the skills which pupils have seen at work in the texts they read, analyse and evaluate. We value skills of speaking and listening which remain integral to their work and ensure that reading for pleasure is a priority through our fortnightly reading lessons in the library.

### **Key Stage 4**

In Years 10 and 11 pupils study the AQA specifications of GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. Students study A Christmas Carol, The Merchant of Venice, Conflict poetry and DNA alongside a wide range of non-fiction texts and literary extracts. They are taught in ability sets.

### **Sixth Form**

The department offers the popular and successful AQA Advance Level course in English Language and Literature. This course combines the study of plays, prose and poetry within the literary discipline with the development of linguistic skills of analysis and criticism. Pupils explore literature and language as it works and exists in the real world. We also offer AQA A Level in English Literature (spec B) as an alternative course for those who wish to pursue the study of Literature at a deeper level. We also offer the WJEC Advanced Level course in Film Studies which is very popular.

## English Department Staff 2021-2022

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mrs N. Bates	Head of English and Literacy
Mrs A. McManus	Deputy Head of English
Miss L. Jessop	Assistant Head of Department
Miss J. Stephenson	Teacher of English/Progress Lead
Mr E. Coffey	Teacher of English
Mr J. Robinson	Teacher of English
Mr R. Gray	Teacher of English and Drama
Mr M. Thomas	Teacher of English
Mrs L. Kitchen	Part time Teacher of English

## Resources and Rooming

- Eight designated English classrooms, many of which are brand new, each equipped with a large interactive TV screen.
- Departmental office and ample desk space.
- Use of on-site school library.
- Dedicated admin support for the department.

## Curriculum Enrichment Activities

- Reading Buddies scheme pairing sixth-formers with pupils facing challenges with reading in Year 7.
- Cloud 9 GCSE club.
- World Book Day activities.
- Regular theatre trips.
- Creative Writing Club.
- Read Between the Lines Reading Club
- Fantasy Literature Club
- Curriculum Enrichment Day activities for whole cohorts.
- Stratford upon Avon Trip.
- Revision Clubs.