**The English Department**

**OUR PHILOSOPHY**

We believe that an English education should broaden young people’s understanding of other perspectives through exposure to literature from all of history, which explores diverse representations of culture, gender, race and social class.  Stories are the fabric of society and it is our duty to promote a passion for the art of literature and its key influential figures, as well as exploring its context as a means of teaching young people to understand human nature and to relate to others regardless of background.  The study of language as a powerful tool should enable young people to develop the transferable skills which will allow them to interact clearly, confidently and persuasively, as well as building the confidence to think critically and communicate creatively in the wider world.

**OUR CURRICULUM**

Literature is life, and what we love about literature is its ability to transcend time and culture, and unite people.  Regardless of our race, gender, religion, sexuality, social class, and even the century in which we are born, all humans experience growing up, discovering the world, the struggle for identity, learning what it is to be human and to fit in with society, questioning accepted truths, dealing with conflict, and learning to accept ourselves and others. Our KS3 curriculum celebrates human nature and the human condition by following a thematic approach which takes students on an immersive journey through life and urges them to question the world around them. We teach mixed ability groupings at KS3 and KS4, and follow the AQA syllabus at GCSE for Language and Literature. We also teach two discrete A-levels: English Literature (OCR) and English Language (EDUQAS). These are both popular courses in the Sixth Form, and both subjects are currently in red hot ALPs in terms of results.

**TEACHING**

Currently the English Department comprises 18 teachers, many of whom also have other responsibilities, and one School Direct trainee teacher. We take our staff development seriously: we have a strong core of experienced teachers in our team, who coach trainees and ECTs on a daily basis. English is taught in a suite of nine classrooms, plus two Sixth Form seminar rooms. Every room has a projector and visualiser, and one room is a designated computer suite.

We are currently developing our cross-curricular links, particularly with subjects including History, Faith & Ethics, Art, and Modern Languages, in order to embed knowledge and encourage students to develop an appreciation for how subjects are intertwined.