

Faculty of English and Communications

The Faculty consists of ten members of staff: the Learning Director, two Curriculum Leaders, two full-time and four part-time English specialists and two Psychology specialists. All English teachers have the opportunity to teach across all key stages, including 'A' Level.

Our Key Stage Three curriculum runs through Years 7 and 8 and GCSE Media Studies and GCSE Drama is also an option in Year 10. In Years 10 and 11 all students follow both the AQA English Language and English Literature courses, taking all of their English exams in Year 11. Drama is integrated into the English curriculum across Years 7, 8 and 9. At 'A' Level English is a very popular choice, where we study the OCR English Literature course and the AQA English Language course.

Faculty 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.

In Psychology, we follow the AQA A-level Specification, and our Psychology teachers take the lead across the school in disseminating research into the science of learning. We have a record of impressive results and the subject is one of the most popular choices in the whole of the sixth form. In 2019, at A2, we achieved 79% A*-B. The department consists of three members of staff and works very closely in collaboration with English.

As a faculty, we are committed to developing teaching and learning. We review our curriculum offer regularly and are very open to new ideas. We feel that English teaching is at its best when we can respond to the enthusiasms and expertise of both the teachers and students. We have played a leading role in developing innovative practice within the school, showcasing our work internally and at conferences nationwide. Our development of student leadership and co-construction has been particularly significant; lessons where students lead their learning and develop their own resources has led to an ethos which encourages student voice and their full involvement in the teaching and learning process.

This student-centered ethos permeates all we do, with much one-to-one support being offered. This personalized approach is highly valued by students who feel they are well-supported in their studies. We work closely with the students in reviewing their progress against target grades and we provide support and intervention where appropriate.

All students have their own laptops, and we balance the use of the VLE platform for resource and lesson content, including providing resources to challenge the most able and scaffold more difficult concepts, while impressing upon students the importance of maintaining good handwriting skills. Our aim at SGHS is to teach to the top, building in the structures of support and self-regulation needed to succeed.

All members of the Faculty play a full part in the academic, pastoral and social life of the school, act as Personal Tutor and take part in the school's CPD programme. As the school promotes a distributed model of leadership 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 usually run an active extra-curricular programme, with activities including debating, creative writing, and the very popular FemSoc. We regularly enter students into local writing competitions, where our students perform exceptionally well.

English is a fundamental skill which can enhance student achievement in all subjects; we encourage students to enjoy English and Psychology and to achieve to the best of their abilities.