



The English Department

Welcome

The English curriculum is engaging and forward thinking to give all students a solid foundation in English skills to enable them to progress successfully in life after leaving school. There is a real focus on reading and promoting a love for literature that we hope we will stay with students throughout their lives. During their time in English, students will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from different time periods and from different cultures to give them a feel for the amount of literature out there alongside writing and media skills.

We expect students to utilise our department blog, which supports the students' learning. The blog is regularly updated and students are encouraged to check the site frequently.

<https://stjosephsenglishblog.wordpress.com>

Our aims are:

- To provide enjoyment and creative stimulation in a safe environment.
- To help ALL students gain confidence in their own ability and achieve success.
- To provide ALL students with a functional level of reading and writing skills.
- To instil empathy and acceptance of different cultures and traditions.
- To promote a love of reading for pleasure.

Key Stage 3

In years 7 and 8, Students have eight lessons of English per fortnight, one of which will be a reading lesson. Some students will also utilise the Accelerated Reader and Nesy Programmes which further develop students' literacy.

Over the key stage, students will study a range of novels and authors, Shakespeare, other plays, poetry, non-fiction texts and media. Each half term/term students will focus on one of these areas and be assessed in reading and/or writing. Students are also given numerous opportunities to develop their Speaking and Listening skills, both in preparation for later life and their Spoken English Certificate.

	Terms 1 and 2	Terms 3 and 4	Terms 5 and 6
Year 7	Literature – Novel: Boy in the Striped Pyjamas Language – Analysing non-fiction texts and Transactional Writing.	Literature – Victorian Children's Literature Language – Creative Writing	Literature – Shakespeare: The Tempest/ A Midsummer Night's Dream Language and Literature: Myths and Legends
Year 8	Literature - Novel: Animal Farm / Private Peaceful Language – The Power of Rhetoric	Literature – Gothic texts and the Frankenstein Play Language – Creative Writing	Literature – Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet Language and Literature: Non-fiction and Love Poetry

Key Stage 4

Following on from the foundations built at Key Stage 3, students will all be studying two GCSEs in English- English Language and English Literature. These are both assessed through exams at the end of year 11. All students will sit the same exams as they are no longer tiered.

English Language – AQA

The course focuses on the skills of English and in particular writing. Students will be taught how to write accurately in a number of different formats and for different audiences.

Through this course, students' ability to analyse texts will also be improved with the papers containing fiction and non-fiction extracts from the 19th, 20th and 21st century for students to analyse. Here they will not only be assessed on how well they understand the content of the pieces but also how well they can analyse the language and structure used by the authors to effect the reader.

In year 10 or 11, students will complete the Spoken English presentations. This will validate the GCSE and will provide students with an additional qualification.

English Literature - AQA

The course aims to broaden the reading that students do and challenge them to study British texts from a range of different time periods. All students will study a Shakespeare play in detail alongside a 19th century novel, 20th century text and poetry covering everything from the Romantic poets to poems from the current Poet Laureate.

Students will be expected to study the texts in enough detail that they can discuss theme, character and symbols with confidence and remember key quotations from their exam. Wherever possible throughout the course, there will be opportunities for students to visit the theatre and see their text performed live to enhance their experience of it.

We encourage students to have their own copies of the texts for the sake of revision and deeper learning.

Current texts:

Modern Text: An Inspector Calls

19th Century Text: A Christmas Carol

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Poetry: Power & Conflict Cluster

Unseen Poetry

Extra-curricular clubs

The English department is proud to offer a range of clubs from creative writing to BBC Schools News Report.

We also offer the students many opportunities to contribute to the blog as student bloggers.

We encourage students to take part in national poetry competitions including 'Poetry by Heart' and Radio 2's '500 Words' and have students take part in Salisbury School Book Awards.

Additionally, we frequently have authors in to speak to students and work with them.