

# English Department

## Staff

- Elle Coney (CON), Head of English
- Emily Anderson (AND), Teacher of English and Drama
- Ellie Cole (CLE), Teacher of English and Drama
- Peter Collinson (CLS), Teacher of English, Teacher in Charge of KS4 English
- Jenny Fletcher (FLE), Teacher of English, member of SLT (Senior Leadership Team)
- Grace O'Reilly (ORE), Teacher of English and Drama
- Philip Smedley (SME), Teacher of English, Head of Media and Drama
- Georgina Soanes (SOA), Teacher of English and Media, Teacher in Charge of KS3 English
- Rosalind Thacker (THA), Teacher of English, member of Pastoral Team

## Curriculum

### KS3

As our department, our philosophy is that KS3 English, although the foundation for KS4 English, should offer something other than simply a diluted version of KS4. We assess pupils using the same assessment objectives as KS4 to ensure a continuity but aim to provide a broad and varied experience of English and English literature.

The teaching is delivered in themed units which cover a wide range skills. We incorporate brief tests, which are similar to the GCSE papers, so that pupils will develop a familiarity with KS4 assessment. Above all though, we aim to provide opportunities to explore the English language and its literature. We must respond to the demands of an ever-changing world through the provision of relevant and interesting activities and materials.

### KS4

AQA GCSE English language (8700) and English literature (8702)

The new syllabi provide pupils with a rich and varied experience. The language papers focus on the craft of the writer in seminal twentieth-century fiction and the comparative study of non-fiction writers and their viewpoints. Both papers include a writing question which requires pupils to adapt their writing to different purposes.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar now comprises 20% of the overall GCSE English language qualification.

The literature papers include the study of a Shakespeare text, a modern drama, a poetry anthology, a nineteenth-century text and unseen poetry.

Recommended Learning Links for GCSE: <http://www.thinkalink.co.uk/>  
<http://bloggingshakespeare.com/> <http://findingshakespeare.co.uk/> <http://60-minutes.bloggingshakespeare.com/> <http://gettingtoknowshakespeare.com/>  
<http://yearofshakespeare.com/> <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/english>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>  
<http://literatureguides.philipallan.co.uk/studentgcse.aspx>  
<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/english/index.php>

## **KS5**

EDEXCEL GCE English language (9EN0)

A level English language is a rigorous but varied course which provides students with valuable transferrable skills. In addition to working on original writing, students will also explore language use in a range of situations and develop sound analytical skills. Students face the challenge of producing original writing and commentaries as well as exploring language change and child language acquisition.

Recommended Learning Links for A level English language:  
<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/english/english-language-b-updates.php>  
<http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.co.uk/>  
<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/contents.htm#langu>

## **AQA GCE English literature (7712)**

A level English literature provides a range of challenging and thought provoking texts, which are considered from an historicist approach. For this, you will explore the origins of literature, from the Bible and Ancient Greek Drama and track the development of the genres of drama, poetry and prose to the modern day.

The course includes the study of a Shakespeare text, poetry, prose and drama. As part of the A level, students also produce an independent critical study, which allows them to pursue their own interests in reading. Students need to be prepared to read widely and independently.

### **Learning Links for A level English literature:**

<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/english/english-literature-a-updates.php>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/> <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/english-literature>

<http://literatureguides.philipallan.co.uk/studentalevel.aspx>

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/contents.htm#lita>

[http://www.helpmewithenglish.co.uk/page\\_1532622.html](http://www.helpmewithenglish.co.uk/page_1532622.html)

[http://www.helpmewithenglish.co.uk/page\\_1532622.html](http://www.helpmewithenglish.co.uk/page_1532622.html) (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

### **Lessons**

We aim to provide challenging and inspiring lessons in which all students are fully involved in their learning. Students will find themselves involved in individual tasks as well as group work and undertake a wide variety of learning activities.

### **Successes**

We are very proud of our results – for example, A level results are consistently good; the literature results are frequently within the top 5% in the country. August 2016 saw our highest ever achievement at GCSE with almost 80% A\*-C. The school's motto is 'comprehensive excellence' and we firmly believe in each pupil and student achieving their best.

### **Experiences**

We always look for opportunities to enhance pupils' learning with experiences outside the classroom. Pupils have participated in activities such as workshops from local writers and theatre companies; theatre performances in school, Norwich, Cambridge and London; talks by famous authors such as Charlie Higson and Darren Shan; events for National Poetry Day and World Book Day; public speaking competitions and many extra-curricular revision classes.

**SUMMER READS** - look at our Blog <http://rhscgoodreads.blogspot.co.uk/>

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