

DEPARTMENT DETAILS



Head of English (Permanent Contract)

Welcome

I would like to thank you for your interest in applying for the above post. You now have the opportunity to join a thriving and very successful department built upon relationships of mutual respect between pupils and staff alike. Having had the chance to read our recruitment pack and find out a little bit more about our school and the English department, I very much look forward to receiving your application.

Staffing

The English Department is made up of a strong team of 12 specialist teachers. It is a very friendly and extremely supportive group of colleagues. The department has 8 well-resourced teaching rooms.

Results

Our results have been consistently high year on year and in August 2025 our students achieved:

- 74% at grade 4 and above – English Language
- 80% at grade 4 and above English Literature
- At A Level, 100% at grades A*-E

Our Curriculum

At the core of our ethos in the English Department is the drive to inspire, motivate and support students in their learning throughout the school but also to inspire an appreciation of the power of Literature and to encourage a love of reading. We believe that through an engaging curriculum we can encourage pupils to reflect on the world in a meaningful and critical way and increase their cultural capital through their exploration of Literature and non-fiction texts.

Throughout the major curriculum reforms of GCSE's and A-levels, this philosophy has been central to our ethos. Despite our successes, the Department is always reflecting on practice and looking at opportunities to improve the experience of English for our students.

Through this philosophy, we will aim to:

- Ensure that teaching and learning in English lessons is of a high quality, meets the needs of our students and is in accordance with the National Curriculum.
- Provide high challenge and expectations for all abilities and allow students opportunities to celebrate their success and recognise individual achievement.
- Instil a life-long love of reading and develop resilience when faced with challenging texts.
- Give students the opportunity to experience the theatre.
- Develop and refine our students' use of language, promoting vocabulary acquisition.
- Develop our students' knowledge, experience and accuracy of spoken and written forms of English language. Oracy is a central focus for the school and our work with Voice 21 has allowed us to begin embedding this in the curriculum - something we are all passionate about!

- Ensure that English provides students with opportunities for personal growth, developing moral and social awareness.
- Function as a team in developing and sharing common approaches to the teaching of English, working in collaboration with other schools.
- Contribute fully to the life and work of the school.
- Enhance students' creativity and enjoyment in writing in a range of forms.
- Provide regular enrichment activities through the Arts Project, Poetry competitions, Debating, Writing and Book Clubs.
- Utilise the latest pedagogical research, in order to inform teaching strategies and lesson design.

At Key Stage 3 we offer a rich and varied curriculum. Students will engage with a range of classic and modern texts, covering all genres. In Y7, students will study *A Christmas Carol* and *Animal Farm* as well as exploring a variety of non-fiction texts and poetry. They are also studying *The Bone Sparrow* by Zara Fraillon allowing students to develop their empathy and understanding of the refugee experience. In Year 8 students study *Macbeth*, and *Blood Brothers*. In Year 9, students study *Jekyll and Hyde*, developing an understanding of the gothic as well as persuasive writing and *Much ado about Nothing*. Writing challenges and Reading for pleasure in lessons together happen regularly, promoting literacy but also encouraging creativity.

At Key Stage 4 we follow the AQA Specification. Students will study *Romeo and Juliet*, *Frankenstein*, *An Inspector Calls* and the Worlds and Lives Poetry as part of GCSE English Literature.

At Key Stage 5 we follow the Edexcel Specification. Students will study *Othello* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. They will also study Gothic horror, focusing on *Dracula* and *The Little Stranger*. In terms of poetry, they will study a range of post 2000 poems, develop unseen poetry analysis and study the poetry of Christina Rossetti.

Extra-curricular activities run by the English Department

Providing students with a range of extra-curricular activities is at the core of our ethos in the English Department. Everyone in the Department should aim to provide at least one enriching activity throughout the year.

Regular extra-curricular clubs and events within the Department

Debate Mate

Student Writes

Book Club Sixth Form Newspaper

KS5 Book Club (Reading Club)

Readathon

Primary School Tolkein Arts festival

Y8 Murder Mystery

World Book Day

Book Buzz

Eco Project

Reading Teachers=Reading Pupils – Book Club through Cheltenham Literature Festivals

Thank you once again for your interest in the post.

Dr J Coughlan

Executive Principal