

THE TEAM /RESOURCES

We are a large department of nineteen specialists who, though in two campuses, work closely together to develop curriculum resources. The department is characterised by openness, support and by a good sense of humour. We are supported in the department by an HLTA and an administration assistant. Each teaching room has a PC and an interactive whiteboard. All courses are well resourced with an extensive range of fiction and non-fiction texts, other Literary materials and media resources.

ORGANISATION AND LEADERSHIP

The department is led by a Director of English and Senior Assistant Director. Our leadership emphasis is on collegiality and collaboration. Other staff have specific year group/campus responsibilities. We have department Learning Outlines for all class texts and modules and everyone in the Department is expected to contribute to these to ensure that they are relevant and up to date.

KEY STAGE 3

We teach in ability groups in Years 7 – 9, taking care to address the needs of all students through differentiated tasks and through our Special Needs provision which supports children in class. The focus at Key Stage 3 is ensuring that our students are fully prepared for the demands of the new GCSE specification. There are regular opportunities for students to move between groups depending on the progress they are making and, although class teachers have choice as to how they approach the sets text they study with a class, we do all follow the same Long Term Plan to ensure consistency and cohesion.

KEY STAGE 4

We study both English Language and English Literature, following the AQA syllabuses, to students who are placed within ability groups. The course is delivered in a structured way with equal emphasis being placed upon the unique demands of these distinct GCSE courses. Our results are very good and compare strongly with other GCSE subjects.

POST 16

Students follow the AQA AS/A Level Specification A for English Literature and AQA AS/A Level English Language. All courses are very popular with students and are regularly oversubscribed.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

The English Department makes a lively contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school. Regular theatre trips are organised to enhance students' work in the classroom and to assist their enjoyment of our subject. Proximity to London, Stratford, Cambridge and Oxford provides ample variety for extending the experience of students. We also work in conjunction with the school Libraries to bring in writers to carry out talks and workshops with our students.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

STYLE

During the course of studying English at Ousedale, there is a strong emphasis on reading for pleasure; on drafting and re-drafting skills; on developing technical accuracy; on encouraging the clear expression of personal written response, and in developing oral skills. We encourage students to tackle challenging texts to ensure that they are fully prepared for the examination demands ahead of them. Our style is to encourage, through a warm classroom atmosphere, active learning where each student's contribution is valued.

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